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# THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 824.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1843.

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**SCHOOL MASTERS' COURSES.**—Session commencing October 16.  
**JUNIOR SCHOOL.**—Session commencing 25th September.  
**CHARLES C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.**  
8th August, 1843.

**BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.**  
THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, will commence in OROK on THURSDAY MORNING, the 17th of AUGUST, 1843.  
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Messrs. Roscoe, Bartholomew & Lowell, Foreign Booksellers, Great Brunswick-street, London, are authorized to receive donations in behalf of the above-named Gentlemen.

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President—Right Hon. the Earl of DEVON.  
The first enrolment of 20 members having now been filled up, the Entrance Fee for Town Members has been raised from five guineas to six, and for Country Members, from two guineas to three.  
The annual subscription of three guineas for town members, of two guineas for country members, living ten miles from London, and one guinea only for those living twenty miles from London, will remain unchanged till the next 250 members are entered.  
After this, a further increase in the entrance fees will take place, to the same extent as before; and to those not entering as members until the Institute is opened, the annual subscription will be also increased, as it is neither just nor reasonable that those who wait till all difficulties are conquered, should be added to the same privileges, and on the same terms, as those who have been earlier in the field, and assisted to establish the success of the undertaking.  
Members of the First Enrolment are requested to pay in their entrance fees, or contributions, to the Secretary of the Institute, Messrs. Smith, Payne & Smith, and Messrs. Hanson & Co. to the account of "The British and Foreign Institute." And members desirous to make such payments before the 1st of September next, will lose their privilege of priority, and be transferred to the second enrolment, at the increased rates.  
To meet the wishes of the members, there will now be three classes for town, namely, a single gentleman, a gentleman and lady, and an entire family, at proportionate rates of charge; the ladies in all such cases being the actual resident members of the family, and no other.  
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Prospectuses of this new Association, which is to be placed under the management of J. B. Buckingham, Esq., as President and Director, and which will unite the advantages of a club with the pleasures of a literary institute, under the careful protection of the hall, and with perfect freedom from any liability beyond the amount of each individual subscription, may be had of the principal booksellers in town and country, and at the Committee Room, No. 4, Hanover-square, and 23, Cockspur-street, where the committee sit daily from two to two at the former, and from three to five at the latter, to receive the personal application of candidates for membership, and to answer any written applications addressed to the undersigned.  
**L. STANHOPE, F. BUCKINGHAM, Sec.**  
4, Hanover-square, August 8.

**MR. AUG. KRANTZ, of Berlin, respectfully informs his Customers and Friends that he will be prevented from attending (this year) the Meeting of the British Association at Cork, but requests the favour of their commands to be addressed to him as usual, to the care of Mr. Pamplin, 45, Fifth-street, Soho-square.  
A. K. also takes the present opportunity of mentioning that his new priced CATALOGUE of Mineral and Geological Specimens is now ready, and may be had, as above, by a pre-paid application, enclosing two penny stamps.  
Berlin, Aug. 5, 1843.**

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Annual subscriptions, donations, dividends, &c. .... 111 1 2  
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LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1843.

## REVIEWS

*Narrative of the Discoveries on the North Coast of America; effected by the Officers of the Hudson's Bay Company during the Years 1836-39.* By Thomas Simpson, Esq. Bentley.

THIS modest, unpretending volume contains the lively history of one of the most remarkable expeditions, or rather series of expeditions, on record;—remarkable, as filling up and giving continuity to our knowledge of the northern circumpolar coasts of America, through seventy-four degrees of longitude, or, following the windings of the shore, above 2,000 miles, all explored by British enterprise; remarkable as an example of bold and comprehensive plans, carried into execution with a rare union of consummate prudence and indomitable courage, and completely successful, without a serious accident or mishap, during three trying campaigns. Without accident or mishap, we say; but alas! in the train of so signal a triumph there followed at no great distance a sad disaster, to which we shall return in the sequel. Owing to the untimely fate of the author of this narrative, the task of vindicating his share in the expedition has devolved on his brother, who says,—

"Although Mr. Simpson's name appears only as second or junior officer of the expedition,—the senior being Mr. Peter Warren Dease, an old and experienced officer of the Hudson's Bay Company, who co-operated with Sir John Franklin on his last expedition,—yet a glance at the narrative in the following pages will prove that Mr. Simpson was really the main-spring of the expedition. He alone was at all conversant with science: and the most arduous parts of the service performed by the expedition—the completion of the survey between Mackenzie River and Point Barrow; the exploration of the country between Great Slave Lake and the Coppermine River—essential to the transport across that rugged and sterile country (well called the *Barren Grounds*) of the boats and provisions of the expedition; and the pedestrian journey along the coast, of the summer of 1838, which opened the prospect of a clear sea to the eastward, securing the success of the expedition in summer 1839,—were performed by him alone."

On the failure of Sir G. Back's attempt to reach the Polar Sea by Wager Inlet, or Repulse Bay, the Hudson's Bay Company determined to lend its aid in completing the geography of that nearly inaccessible region. It had often smiled at the expeditions fitted out by Government for Arctic discovery at an enormous expense, and composed of individuals having plenty of zeal, but who, possessing very little experience of the polar climate, necessarily found difficulty and danger in journeys which, to the practised fur-trader, would have been safe and easy. In July 1836, Messrs. Dease and Simpson received the commands of the Company to conduct an expedition northwards in the following year, and, in the first place, descending Mackenzie River, and proceeding westwards to Return Reef, the furthest point reached by Sir J. Franklin in 1826, to explore the coast onwards from that point to Point Barrow, which had been reached by Mr. Elson in Beechy's voyage. Returning from this western exploration, the expedition was to winter at the north-eastern angle of the Great Bear Lake; thence to descend, in the following summer, the Coppermine River, and to follow the coast eastwards, as far as the mouth of the Great Fish River, discovered by Back in 1834. This eastern survey eventually proved to be the work of two summers.

Mr. Simpson started to join the expedition at its first winter quarters, near Lake Athabasca, from the Red River settlement, which is situated in the heart of the North American continent, about 300 miles W.N.W. from the remotest

borders of Canada, above Lake Superior. This colony lies so far from the ordinary track of tourists, and is in itself of so interesting a character, that we cannot refuse to glean from our author's pages some information respecting it:

"Situated under the 50th degree of north latitude, and 97th of west longitude, at an elevation of eight or nine hundred feet above the sea, and stretching for upwards of fifty miles along the wooded borders of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, which flow through a level country of vast extent, it possesses a salubrious climate and a fertile soil; but summer frosts, generated by undrained marshes, sometimes blast the hopes of the husbandman, and the extremes of abundance and want are experienced by an improvident people. Horses, horned cattle, hogs, and poultry, are exceedingly numerous. Sheep have been brought by the Company, at great expense, from England and the United States, and are reared with success. Wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, turnips, and most of the ordinary culinary vegetables, thrive well. Pumpkins, melons, and cucumbers come to maturity in the open air in favourable seasons. Maize, pease, and beans, have not been extensively cultivated; hops grow luxuriantly; flax and hemp are poor and stunted; orchards are as yet unknown. The banks of the rivers are cultivated to the width of from a quarter to half a mile. All the back level country remains in its original state—a vast natural pasture, covered for the greater part of the year with cattle, and also furnishing the inhabitants with a sufficiency of coarse hay for the support of their herds during the winter. The length of this severe season exceeds five months, the rivers usually freezing in November and opening in April, when there is a fine sturgeon-fishery; but Lake Winipeg, the grand receptacle of the river waters, does not break up till the close of May. The most common sorts of wood are oak, elm, poplar, and maple; pines are likewise found towards Lake Winipeg. \* \* The generality of the settlers dwell in frame or loghouses, roofed with wooden slabs, bark, or shingles, and, for the most part, whitewashed or painted externally. Not a man, however mean or idle, but possesses a horse; and they ride in gay carriages, harness, saddles, and fine clothes. A great abundance of English goods is imported, both by the Company and by individuals, in the Company's annual ships to York Factory, and disposed of in the colony at moderate prices. Labour is dear, and produce of all kinds sells at a higher rate than could be expected in such a secluded place."

The land at the Red River colony is, in general, given gratuitously to the Hudson's Bay Company's retired servants. These traders, scattered over the country in their early years, and far removed from civilized society, usually marry Indian women, and consequently, the population of the Red River settlement, which now amounts to five thousand souls, consists, in a great degree, of half-breeds. The restless, turbulent passions of this race, have gradually driven from the Red River the original Scotch settlers, who have, for the most part, migrated to the United States; and there now remain, in the vicinity of Lake Winipeg, less persevering industry, and more wild recklessness, than might be expected in a British colony of thirty years standing. At the same time, the Red River colonists are elevated far above savage life, and as the fur-traders now take their wives from that settlement, rather than from the hut of the wild Indian, a steady improvement in the character of the half-breed population, may be looked forward to as a certain result.

On the 1st of December our author started on his journey northward. There was not yet any snow on the ground. The dogs were allowed, therefore, to draw empty sledges, while the travellers amused themselves with a wolf-hunt, a favourite pastime in the plains around the colony, where the horses are trained to the pursuit of the buffalo and wolf, and to stand fire at full speed. On the ice of the Lake of Manitoba, or the Evil Spirit, the labour of the dogs commenced. A little further on the region of oak

terminated; but fine woods of elm are found much further northward, when these in turn give way to pine, poplar, and willow. Much of the country now lying desert on the western side of the Manitobah and Winipeg lakes, is capable of producing wheat and other grains. The cold now became intense. On the 23rd, a strong westerly wind, at a temperature of at least 40° below zero, seriously threatened the safety of the party, and notwithstanding every precaution, two men were injured by the cold. After two months' toil, our author arrived at Fort Chipewyan, on Lake Athabasca, and concludes this part of his narrative with the following observation:—

"Thus happily terminated a winter journey of 1277 statute miles. In the wilderness time and space seem equally a blank, and for the same reason—the paucity of objects to mark or diversify their passage; but, in my opinion, the real secret of the little account which is made of distance in these North American wilds is, that there is *nothing to pay*. Every assistance is promptly rendered to the traveller without fee or reward, while health and high spirits smile at the fatigues of the way."

The forts or trading establishments of the Company, constitute so many fixed points of Indian resort. The Indian finds in them a market for the produce of the chase, a refuge in case of war, and at all times relief and instruction. It requires all the eloquence and personal influence of the trader to persuade the Indian to spare the young of the beaver, and other valuable fur animals. So obstinate are the red men in their improvident habits, so deeply seated their destructive propensities, that our author does not hesitate to pronounce them irreluctant. He gives the following curious illustration of their innate love of slaughtering game:

"Near York Factory, in 1831, this propensity, contrary to all the remonstrances of the gentlemen of that place, led to the indiscriminate destruction of a countless herd of reindeer, while crossing the broad stream of Haye's River, in the height of summer. The natives took some of the meat for present use, but thousands of carcasses were abandoned to the current, and infected the river banks, or floated out into Hudson's Bay, there to feed the sea fowl and the Polar bear. As if it were a judgment for this barbarous slaughter, in which women and even children participated, the deer have never since visited that part of the country in similar numbers."

On the shore of Athabasca lake, were built two sea boats, each twenty-four feet long, so much alike, and, in the eyes of the travellers, so handsome, as to obtain the classical appellations of Castor and Pollux. On the 1st of June, the boats being finished, the expedition commenced the descent. We shall say nothing of the ice still lingering in Great Slave Lake, nor of the cheerful verdant scenery of Mackenzie River. Barley is cultivated at Fort Simpson, in latitude 62°; and even at Fort Norman, 200 miles lower down, European perseverance is exhibited in the cultivation of the ground; "At this northerly spot, in latitude 64° 40', a small quantity of green barley, and of potatoes, almost as big as pigeons' eggs, is now annually raised." The wood coal, on the banks of the Mackenzie, is, for several miles, in a state of ignition, and these natural fires appear to have extended since the time of Dr. Richardson's visit. They locally affect the climate; a richer herbage and riper berries being found in the vicinity of the fires. Near Fort Good Hope, in latitude 66° 10', our author writes—"The majestic river, and its high banks, were steeped in a flood of light, and except the diminutive size of the wood, there was nothing in the landscape to suggest the thought that we had penetrated so far into the regions of the North."

Let us hasten now from Mackenzie River, to the unexplored sea shores towards the west.

With great exertions the boats were forced through the ice about 150 miles beyond the Return Reef of Sir J. Franklin; but the progress being so slow, and the obstructions so formidable, it was thought advisable to prosecute the remainder of the required exploration on foot: with this view, therefore, Mr. Simpson set forth with five companions. The sequel of his story shall be told, as much as possible, in his own words:—

"After travelling about ten miles, and wading through many a salt creek, the waters of which were at the freezing temperature, the land, to our dismay, turned off to the eastward of south, and a boundless inlet lay before us. Almost at the same instant, to our inexpressible joy, we descried four Esquimaux tents, at no great distance, with figures running about. We immediately directed our steps towards them; but, on our approach, the women and children threw themselves into their canoes, and pushed off from the shore. I shouted 'Kabloonan teyma Inuuet,' meaning 'We are white men, friendly to the Esquimaux;' upon which glad news the whole party hurried ashore, and almost overpowered us with caresses. The men were absent, hunting, with the exception of one infirm individual, who, sitting under a reversed canoe, was tranquilly engaged in weaving a fine whalebone net. Being unable to make his escape with the rest, he was in an agony of fear; and, when I first went up to him, with impotent hand he made a thrust at me with his long knife. He was, however, soon convinced of our good intentions; and his first request was for tobacco, of which we found men, women, and even children inordinately fond. \* \* Confidence being now fully established, I told them that I required one of their oomiaks, or large family canoes, to take us two or three days' journey—or sleeps, as they term it—to the westward; after which we should return. These skin boats float in half a foot of water. No ice was visible from the tents; and, from the trending of the coast, it was more than doubtful that our journey could have been accomplished in any reasonable time on foot. They acceded to my demand, without a scruple. We selected the best of three oomiaks; obtained four of their slender oars, which they used as tent-poles, besides a couple of paddles; fitted the oars with lashings; and arranged our strange vessel so well that the ladies were in raptures, declaring us to be genuine Esquimaux, and not poor white men. Whilst my companions were thus employed, I procured, from the most intelligent of the women, a sketch of the inlet before us, and of the coast to the westward, as far as her knowledge extended. She represented the inlet as very deep; that they make many encampments in travelling round it; but that it receives no river. She also drew a bay of some size to the west-ward; and the old man added a long and very narrow projection, covered with tents, which I could not doubt to mean Point Barrow."

The wind blew violently and the sea ran high, but the Esquimaux boat rode gallantly over the waves. At night, propped on the paddles, it formed a shelter on the shore, which is here formed of frozen mud. A fine deep river, named the Bellevue, was discovered further on, and, immediately after, our author descried, with unfeigned joy, the object of his search. He thus describes his arrival at Point Barrow:—

"We had now only to pass Elson Bay, which is for the most part shallow. It was covered with a tough coat of young ice, through which we broke a passage; and then forced our way amid a heavy pack, nearly half a mile broad, that rested upon the shore. On reaching it, and seeing the ocean spreading far and wide to the south-west, we unfurled our flag, and with three enthusiastic cheers took possession of our discoveries in His Majesty's name. Point Barrow is a long low spit, composed of gravel and coarse sand, forced up by the pressure of the ice into numerous mounds, that, viewed from a distance, might be mistaken for gigantic boulders. At the spot where we landed it is only a quarter of a mile across, but is considerably wider towards its termination, where it subsides into a reef running for some distance in an easterly direction, and partly covered by the sea. One of the first objects that presented it-

self, on looking around, was an immense cemetery. There the miserable remnants of humanity lay on the ground, in the seal-skin dresses worn while alive. A few were covered with an old sledge or some pieces of wood, but far the greater number were entirely exposed to the voracity of dogs and wild animals."

Among the remarkable features of the line of coast discovered by the expedition is the River Colville, apparently of great magnitude, for the sea opposite to its mouth was quite fresh three leagues from the shore. This river is supposed by our author to flow from the western side of the Rocky Mountains. It appears that our fur traders on the western side of those mountains, not far from the Russian lines, have heard of a great river a little farther north, the description of which suits well with the Colville. With a glad heart, and during a gleam of fair weather, our author saw and relished whatever agreeable scenery these desolate shores possess. He thus paints the view from a hill near Demarcation Point:—

"I ascended the nearest hill, six or seven miles distant, whence I enjoyed a truly sublime prospect. On either hand arose the British and Buckland mountains, exhibiting an infinite diversity of shade and form; in front lay the blue boundless ocean strongly contrasted with its broad glittering girdle of ice; beneath yawned ravines a thousand feet in depth, through which brawled and sparkled the clear alpine streams; while the sun, still high in the west, shed his softened beams through a rich veil of saffron-coloured clouds that over-canopied the gorgeous scene. Bands of reindeer, browsing on the rich pasture in the valleys and along the brooks, imparted life and animation to the picture. Reluctantly I returned to the camp at sunset."

The mouth of the Mackenzie was regained without accident, and the wearied crews at length enjoyed repose. "The night was serene, and not a sound broke upon the solemn stillness, save the occasional notes of swans and geese calling to their mates, and the early crowing of the willow partridge, as the soft twilight melted into the blush of dawn."

From the return of the expedition to the Mackenzie, to its arrival in winter quarters at the north-eastern angle of Great Bear Lake, a month elapsed; and, in that month, the glow and serenity of autumn had given way to the immitigable severity of a northern winter. Various accidents had prevented the completion of the buildings and the accumulation of provisions, and if the whole party—men and leaders—had not been expert hunters and backwoodsmen, it is probable that the expedition would have experienced the extremities of famine. The intense cold was of unusual duration. The average temperature of the latter half of December was  $-33\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ , that of all January  $-30^{\circ}$ . In March, when the average temperature was  $-20^{\circ}$ , the thermometer on one occasion sank so low as  $-60^{\circ}$ , or even  $-66^{\circ}$  (66 degrees below zero!). Our author had the curiosity, when the thermometer was standing at  $-49^{\circ}$ , to cast a pistol-bullet of quicksilver, which at ten paces passed through an inch plank, but flattened and broke against the wall a few paces beyond it. This chilling temperature, however, did not repress the gaiety nor subdue the appetites of the party, as will be manifest from what follows:—

"On Christmas and New-Year's days we entertained our assembled people with a dance, followed by a supper, consisting of the best fare we could command. By this time we had, through our indefatigable exertions, accumulated two or three weeks' provisions in advance, and no scarcity was experienced during the remainder of the season. The daily ration served out to each man was increased from eight to ten, and to some individuals twelve pounds of venison; or, when they could be got, four or five white-fish weighing from fifteen to twenty pounds. This quantity of solid food, immoderate as it may appear, does not exceed the average standard

of the country; and ought certainly to appease even the inordinate appetite of a French Canadian."

The barren grounds or country immediately to the east of the Great Bear Lake have been explored during the winter, and, all the preparations being complete, the expedition started again in June, 1838, as soon as the ice broke up. The boats ascended the River Dease for some miles; they were then carried over a short portage to the Dismal Lakes, by means of which, and the River Kendall, they descended into the Coppermine River. This communication between the Coppermine River and Great Bear Lake was frequently examined, and four times crossed by the expedition with all their luggage: our author must, therefore, be regarded as a competent authority, when he asserts that the descent is equal on both sides. The consequence is, that the Coppermine River, from the mouth of the Kendall River to the sea, or in a course of seventy miles, has as great a fall as the Great Bear Lake, the Great Bear River, and the Mackenzie altogether, in a line of 700 miles. The dangers of so impetuous a torrent were fully experienced by our author and his companions; their boats, however, were fortunately steered by expert Canadians well used to shoot the rapids, and thus they reached the sea in safety. A little to the west of the Coppermine River another large stream, named after Dr. Richardson, was found to discharge its waters into the same inlet.

The prosperity of this campaign may be said to have ended here. The winter had been unusually severe, the summer late. The sea was compact ice; thick fogs darkened the heavens. On the 19th of August the boats had only reached within a league of Franklin's farthest encampment in 1821. The lateness of the season, and the appearance of new ice, forbade the attempt to navigate any further. Mr. Simpson therefore, with a few chosen companions, volunteered to explore some distance on foot, so that their exertions hitherto might not be wholly fruitless. He had not proceeded far beyond Franklin's limit, when he descried, over the sea, land about twenty-five miles distant. On the third day an appearance of land extending round the horizon, disheartened the explorers: but here we shall have recourse to our author's description:—

"As we drew near in the evening to an elevated cape, land appeared all around, and our worst fears seemed confirmed. With bitter disappointment I ascended the height, from whence a vast and splendid prospect burst suddenly upon me. The sea, as if transformed by enchantment, rolled its free waves at my feet, and beyond the reach of vision to the eastward. Islands of various shape and size overspread its surface; and the northern land terminated to the eye in a bold and lofty cape, bearing east-north-east, thirty or forty miles distant, while the continental coast trended away south-east. I stood, in fact, on a remarkable headland, at the eastern outlet of an ice-obstructed strait. On the extensive land to the northward I bestowed the name of our most gracious sovereign Queen Victoria. \* \* Our present discoveries were in themselves not unimportant; but their value was much enhanced by the disclosure of an open sea to the eastward, and the suggestion of a new route—along the southern coast of Victoria Land—by which that open sea might be attained, while the shores of the continent were yet envolved by an impenetrable barrier of ice, as they were this season. Our portable canoe, which we had not had occasion to use, was buried in the sand at the foot of a huge round rock on the beach, and with lighter burdens we commenced retracing our steps."

In returning to the Coppermine River much hardship was endured, and the ascent of the bold rapids of that river with a fallen stream, which former travellers had pronounced impracticable, proved the consummate skill of our author's Canadian followers. The boats and

part of the stores were buried in a convenient spot on the banks of the river, and the party returned once more to their old quarters at Fort Confidence, on the Great Bear Lake.

The incidents of the winter of 1838-9 exhibit the usual vicissitudes of the backwoodsman's life. There was much feasting on venison and much fear of famine. Hordes of begging Indians poured in, and numerous expert hunters brought supplies of meat to the fort, and ate more than they brought. Particulars such as these, however, cannot detain us. The manners of the native tribes will be found sharply sketched, though with no flattering lines, in our author's pages. Yet the following bold attempt to discriminate the native races of North America, may, from its brevity, be admitted here:—

"The Esquimaux inhabiting all the Arctic shores of America have doubtless originally spread from Greenland, which was peopled from northern Europe; but their neighbours, the Loucheux of Mackenzie River, have a clear tradition that their ancestors migrated from the westward, and crossed an arm of the sea. The language of the latter is entirely different from that of the other known tribes who possess the vast region to the northward of a line drawn from Churchill, on Hudson's Bay, across the Rocky Mountains, to New Caledonia. These, comprehending the Chipewyans, the Copper Indians, the Beaver Indians of Peace River, the Dog-ribs and Hare Indians of Mackenzie River and Great Bear Lake, the Thoscanies, Nahannies, and Dahadinnehs of the Mountains, and the Carriers of New Caledonia, all speak dialects of the same original tongue. Next to them succeed the Crees, speaking another distinct language, and occupying another great section of the continent, extending from Lesser Slave Lake through the woody country on the north side of the Saskatchewan River, by Lake Winnipeg to York Factory, and from thence round the shores of Hudson and James bays. South of the fiftieth parallel, the circles of affinity contract, but are still easily traced. The Carriers of New Caledonia, like the people of Hindostan, used till lately to burn their dead; a ceremony in which the widow of the deceased, though not sacrificed as in the latter country, was compelled to continue beating with her hands upon the breast of the corpse while it slowly consumed on the funeral pile, in which cruel duty she was often severely scorched."

The Loucheux differ, it appears, from every other tribe of red Indians, by their bold, open, and perfectly frank demeanour. They are as free as savages can be from treacherous cunning and dissimulation, and have never yet shed the blood of white men. The Esquimaux seen by our author are not the stunted race hitherto described. Among those met with on the Circumpolar shores, there were many robust men, six feet high. He considers the Esquimaux as much superior to the Indian in intelligence, provident habits, and mechanical skill. He had the good fortune to procure, this winter, an Esquimaux interpreter from the missionary settlement of Ungava, in Labrador.

Passing over the reiterated toils of descending to the coast, it will be sufficient for us to state, that in July, 1839, the expedition found the sea, at the mouth of the Coppermine River, tolerably free from ice. The voyage eastward, therefore, was successful, though it furnished no incidents calling for especial notice. A river, larger than the Coppermine, and named the Ellice, was discovered in longitude 104° 15' west. In his Journal of the 15th August, our author observes:—

"All the objects for which the expedition was so generously instituted were now accomplished, but Mr. Dease and myself were not quite satisfied. We had determined the northern limits of America to the westward of the Great Fish River; it still remained a question whether Boothia Felix might not be united to the continent, on the other side of the estuary. The men, who had never dreamed of going any further, were therefore summoned, and the importance of proceeding some distance to the eastward explained to them; when, to their honour, all assented without a murmur."

After an interval of five days, the narrative of discovery is continued in these words:—

"It was now quite evident to us, even in our most sanguine mood, that the time was come for commencing our return to the distant Coppermine River, and that any further foolhardy perseverance could only lead to the loss of the whole party, and also of the great object which we had so successfully achieved. The men were therefore directed to construct another monument in commemoration of our visit; while Mr. Dease and I walked to an eminence three miles off, to see the farther trending of the coast. Our view of the low main-shore was limited to about five miles, when it seemed to turn off more to the right. Far without, lay several lofty islands; and in the north-east, more distant still, appeared some high blue land: this, which we designated Cape Sir John Ross, is in all probability one of the south-eastern promontories of Boothia. We could therefore hardly doubt being now arrived at that large gulph, uniformly described by the Esquimaux as containing many islands, and, with numerous indentations, running down to the southward, till it approaches within forty miles of Repulse and Wager bays. The exploration of such a gulph, to the Strait of the Fury and Hecla, would necessarily demand the whole time and energies of another expedition, having some point of retreat much nearer to the scene of operations than Great Bear Lake; and we felt assured that the Honourable Company, who had already done so much in the cause of discovery, would not abandon their munificent work till the precise limits of this great continent were fully and finally established."

When we add that the southern shores of the great island named Victoria-land were traced through an extent of 156 geographical miles, we shall have stated all the chief results of the expedition, which, if we consider that it comprises the navigation of a tempestuous ocean, beset with ice, for a distance exceeding 1400 geographical, or 1600 statute miles, in open boats, together with all the fatigues of long land journeys and the perils of the climate, was certainly a wonderful achievement. Nor must we omit to state, that science was not neglected; good astronomical observations were made, and a list of the plants collected by Mr. Dease is appended to our author's volume. Let us add, too, that the men appear to have done their duty well and cheerfully, which reflects as much credit on their leaders as on themselves.

The merits of Mr. Simpson were at once recognized by his employers and the Government. The Hudson's Bay Company accepted his offer to conduct another expedition to the Straits of the Fury and Hecla; the Royal Geographical Society awarded him its medal; and the Government intimated its intention of bestowing on him a pension of 100*l.* a-year. But, alas! all this cheering news arrived too late to satisfy and calm his impatient spirit. The letter of the Company was written on the 3rd of June: on the 6th of that month Mr. Simpson left the Red River Colony to proceed by the way of the Missouri to Europe. He hurried on before the rest of his party, with four men. Two of these were shot by him on the evening of the 13th or 14th of June; the other two fled, but returned with their friends on the following morning, when our author's death took place. All the circumstances of this painful tragedy are involved in deep mystery; and we feel no desire to hazard conjectures on such a matter. But one thing is certain, and will be acknowledged by all attentive readers of this volume, that in Thomas Simpson the world lost no common man.

*Religious and Moral Sentences culled from the Works of Shakespeare, compared with Sacred Passages drawn from Holy Writ. Calkin & Budd.*

THE object of this collection of extracts, is to prove that our great bard lived and died an orthodox Protestant of the Church as by law

established in England. There would have been more propriety in dedicating the work to the Protestant Association than to the Shakespeare Society. But, however staunch a Protestant Shakspeare may have been, there is certainly no trace of what is commonly called Protestant politics in his plays and poems; yet we should not be surprised, after the essay before us, if an attempt were made to show that he was Orange as well as orthodox.

The compiler thus states the occasion and motive which suggested his publication:—

"Upon visiting Stratford-upon-Avon, the compiler observed in the room where 'Shakespeare's Relicks' are exhibited, a large written paper, in a gilt frame, (designedly presented to the view) termed 'a copy of Shakespeare's Will,' but drawn up in the Roman Catholic form; representing itself as a faithful copy of the real Will, deposited at Doctors' Commons. Having repeatedly seen printed copies of his genuine Will, fraud was immediately apparent; and as it was manifestly placed there for the purpose of deceiving the world, by the insidious attempt to prove him a Papist, the compiler resolved—in justice to Shakespeare's memory, in justice to the Reformed Religion, and in justice to the divinity of Truth—to expose the fraudulent design, by proving, from Shakespeare's own writings, that he lived and died a true Protestant."

He then gives the preamble to Shakspeare's will, extracted from the registry of the See of Canterbury, and sets forth in juxtaposition with it the preamble to a manuscript will exhibited at the house in Stratford-upon-Avon. The former document is as untinted with Popery as the Protestant Association itself could wish; but the latter is so intensely Popish, that were its genuineness capable of being established, Shakspeare would be infallibly expelled from many an orthodox library with as little ceremony as the works of Dens, or the pamphlets of J. K. L. The Popish testament begins thus:—

"In the name of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; the most holy and blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God; the Holy Ghost of Arc-Angels, Angels, Patriarchs, Prophets, Evangelists, Apostles, Saints, Martyrs, and all the Celestial Courts and Companies of Heaven."

And then it proceeds—"I, William Shakspeare, an unworthy member of the Holy Catholic Religion," &c.

We do not believe, any more than the compiler, that the great poet was "a Papist;" but we have no doubt that his religion was as catholic as his genius, for a mind so august was never yet tenanted by the sour spirit of sectarianism.

A string of passages is given, which are termed "anti-Papistical," but many of which would be perfectly consistent with the notion that Shakspeare was as good a Roman Catholic as any priest in Maynooth College. What can be more ridiculous than to quote the speeches of King John, addressed to Cardinal Pandolph, to prove what the author proposes? or to cite from Henry the Sixth—

This cardinal is more haughty than the devil?

As to passages like the following, it requires a sharp eye to detect anything peculiarly anti-Papistical in them:—

Who would be pitiful, if you are not?  
Or who should study to prefer a peace,  
If holy churchmen take delight in broils? I HEN. VI.

Name not religion, for thou lov'st the flesh;  
And ne'er throughout the year, to church thou go'st,  
Except it be to pray against thy foes. I HEN. VI.

The compiler, we shrewdly suspect, is devoutly of opinion that churchmen of the Church of Rome are the only churchmen capable of "delighting in broils," "loving the flesh," or going seldom to church, and only to "pray against their foes."

We are told that "no Papist would have been inclined, or would have dared to have put into the mouths of his *dramatis personæ* such expressions, counter to Papacy, as are presented

in these extracts." Surely an English Roman Catholic, animated with the free religious spirit of the days of Magna Charta, would not only have not been disinclined to use expressions "counter to Papacy," but would naturally and necessarily have used such expressions, to give vent to his own feelings and principles in matters of religion and church-government. There is, therefore, not a grain of sound reasoning in all the extracts accumulated from the historical plays. The only quotation worth a farthing for the compiler's frivolous object is from the play of Titus Andronicus—

I know that thou art religious,  
And hast a thing within thee called a conscience,  
With twenty Popish tricks and ceremonies,  
Which I have seen thee careful to observe, &c.

Having established, in this sort of way, the position that "our Will" was not a Papist, he proceeds "to show, by demonstration similar to the preceding—viz., his own writings—that he was a true and worthy member of the church of England!"

"This we do by placing, in juxtaposition with his own religious sentences, corresponding passages from Holy Writ; thereby proving how versed he was in the Scriptures, as exemplified by the similitude of his religious sentences to the passages drawn from the Bible, and the Liturgy of the Church of England."

These parallelisms (many of them trifling, and many imaginary) occupy one hundred and forty pages! but we are unable to discover by what process of logic Shakspeare's unquestionable familiarity with the Bible demonstrates that he was a member of the Reformed Church of England. Thomas-à-Kempis, or Sir Thomas More, might be proved a Protestant by a similar line of argument. The great number of passages here collected, certainly "present incontestible proofs that Shakspeare was fully read in Holy Writ, and that his mind was most sensibly imbued with the sublimity and hallowed character of the sacred writings," which nobody could doubt who had studied his works.

*Correspondence of John, Fourth Duke of Bedford. Vol. II. Longman & Co.*

THE correspondence contained in this volume embraces the period between the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle and the death of George II. As it approaches nearer to our own, or rather to our fathers' times, it increases in interest, through the occurrence of names and circumstances of more frequent mention in literary and social gossip. On the contemporary history of the country, it, however, throws few novel lights, such as the public will care to receive; for there is little in the men who were then strutting their hour on the stage calculated to awaken the attention of philosophy, or to beget sympathy,—little to make a more accurate estimate of characters worth the labour of further weighing. The one exception was Pitt,—the great Pitt and little Earl of Chatham,—the one minister of those days, who seems to have possessed heart, purpose, or energy, or was equal to controlling and compelling the jobbing corruption of parliaments into some reluctant obedience to one will; and in the letters of Pitt, the correspondence affords nothing as yet of major importance. But small as may be its contributions to critical history, the volume is not deficient in matter to point a moral for the use of the politician and philosopher; a moral which may be studied with advantage by the general public, in its application to the times in which we live. It contains, also, frequent and edifying illustrations of the working of that aristocratic oligarchy, which, up to the period of the Reform Bill, was considered as a *beau idéal* of representative government under the facetious appellation of the British Constitution.

This combination is pithily set forth by Lord John Russell in his explanatory note, on the state of affairs following the death of Pelham, and the difficulties attendant on replacing him in the ministry. We prefer, therefore, adopting his Lordship's words:—

"According to the abominable system of those days, the secret-service money was employed in buying members of parliament. As a part of the same system, the treasury boroughs were filled by the nomination of the friends of the minister. It was naturally expected by Mr. Fox that he should share in the confidence of the Prime Minister respecting these secret means of government, as well as in the preparation and defence of public measures. But the power of Newcastle was founded on the purchase of boroughs and members of parliament. Others could write as good despatches; others could make more eloquent speeches: it was in jobbing and bargaining that he stood unrivalled. Perhaps he struggled with himself to permit a share of this foul influence to Mr. Fox, but however that may be, after promising one day to communicate every thing, he positively declared the next day that he would keep bribes and boroughs entirely in his own hand, and that Mr. Fox need give himself no concern in the matter. Fox now held himself insulted, and, much to the displeasure of the King, declined the seals. Pitt was in bad health, and was obnoxious; Murray looked to the security of the Bench, and had no wish to encounter Fox and Pitt as the deputy of Newcastle. \* \* For a time all was apparently easy. Sir Thomas Robinson, who knew the routine of foreign affairs, was made Secretary of State, and with Legge, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was appointed to lead the House of Commons. Pitt felt the affront, and said openly that Mr. Fox should have been made leader. Neither he nor Fox resigned their offices, but both thought themselves at liberty to treat with contempt, and expose to laughter, the Secretary of State. On the occasion of an election petition, Sir Thomas Robinson happened to say that the next would be a short case, for it presented no difficulty. Pitt fiercely blamed this light and ignorant way of speaking, and Fox, ironically excusing Robinson on the ground of his inexperience, said he hoped he would be the last great man, as he had been the first to use the influence of his high station to prejudice a case that was unheard. Pitt had said in private, 'he lead us! the Duke might as well send his jackboot to lead us!' And so indeed it appeared."

The main difficulty of those days in forming a ministry, was the division of the spoil. Every great depositary of parliamentary power had in his train a set of petty intriguers ("followers of his own"), all of whom were to be provided for; and the premier, in selecting among the eminencies of his day, had to take them with all their incumbrances. In the embarrassments this created, the pension list afforded the principle of adjustment; but already that lever had been overstrained, and threatened to break beneath the burdens imposed on it. Sacrifices, therefore, of individual ambition and of private gratitude to the expediency of the day, were becoming more and more necessary. The Duke of Bedford himself gave his support to a ministry from which he consented to be excluded, contenting himself with a provision for his friends and followers. In the management of these delicate distresses, Newcastle was pre-eminent; and his sinister dexterity gave him an influence with the king, which enabled him to exclude Pitt, or any other wiser or better man than himself, whose independence was to be feared. In what way the family compact between the aristocracy, Whig and Tory, was broken through by the force of circumstances, and the increasing power of public opinion, is the great historical problem of the reign of the Georges. For the particular occasion now before us, we again refer to Lord John:—

"Stormy times were approaching, and arrangements which excluded Pitt from an office of power, were ill suited to the wants of a country which was about to meet France and Austria combined in a war

of prodigious exertion. In October 1756, Fox, disgusted by the treatment he received from the Duke of Newcastle, tendered his resignation to the King. The King was angry, but sought in vain for help. The office of Chief Justice was vacant, and Murray declared that he would accept no other. Pitt alone could supply the vacancy made by the resignation of Fox. But he refused to serve either with Newcastle or with Fox. Even in this he was indulged, and, in order to gratify him, the Duke of Devonshire accepted the post of First Lord of the Treasury. To make matters easy, Fox offered to take the office of Paymaster, without a seat in the Cabinet. Even this was denied. It was at this time that the Duke of Bedford accepted the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which the Duke of Devonshire quitted for the Treasury. This combination was not made to be lasting. Mr. Pitt, with all his great qualities, was ill fitted to influence the votes of the House of Commons. It was not only that he could not stoop to dishonest arts; he did not possess, or would not exert, the honest qualities of conciliation and forbearance. \* \* When he came to form a ministry himself, he produced that curious mixture of which Mr. Burke says, 'He made an administration so chequered and speckled; he put together a piece of joinery so grossly indented and whimsically dovetailed; a cabinet so variously inlaid; such a piece of diversified mosaic; such a tessellated pavement without cement; here a bit of black stone, and there a bit of white; patriots and courtiers; King's friends and republicans; whigs and tories; treacherous friends and open enemies; that it was indeed a very curious show, but utterly unsafe to touch, and unsure to stand on.' This strange jumble of parties was no accident, but was the natural result of his character. He had no party attachments, and no fixed principles. He cared as little for the employment of Hanover troops, and the engagements of subsidiary treaties, as he cared for the Walpole connexion, or the so-styled patriots: he was ready to be for or against any measure, or any man, as his temper and judgment inclined him at the moment. What he really possessed, and what others wanted, was a high sense of personal honour and national independence—a resolute heart in council, and a powerful understanding for great emergencies. These qualities fitted him exactly for a colleague of Newcastle, who had the qualities which Pitt wanted—a knowledge of the characters of public men, and a sense of the necessity of a party standard to which they could rally. After a long interval of suspense, the interests of the nation prevailed; the Duke of Newcastle became First Lord of the Treasury, and Mr. Pitt Secretary of State, and, according to the phrase of Horace Walpole, all the men who had been declaring for months that they never would join united in forming an administration. 'The Duke of Newcastle lent me his majority to carry on the Government,' said Mr. Pitt some years afterwards. Mr. Pitt made war, Mr. Pitt subsidized Prussia, Mr. Pitt sent forth glorious expeditions, Mr. Pitt conquered Canada: the Duke of Newcastle gave away places, and filled the Whig boroughs with sure dependents."

In such a condition of affairs, everything must turn on personality and egotism; and the present correspondence teems with the minutest traits of such influence, more especially the letters of Rigby, a principal correspondent of the Duke's, and one to whom intrigue seems to have been a natural element.

A more important moral, and one more immediately applicable to pending contingencies, is that which may be collected from the Duke's correspondence as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. It is replete with matter of edification applicable to the passing hour. Even so long ago as his days, we find the bitter fruits of the ancient misgovernment of that country ripening in teeming abundance; and the difficulty in carrying on affairs was even then as great, if not as embarrassing to English ministers, as at the present moment. The Irish parliament, or rather the shadow of a representation, required to be watched, crippled, and misled by an English party in the house, bought "to do the king's business there." "The Parlia-

ment," says Lord John, "of that country was a jobbing aristocracy, banded into different parties, without much, if any, distinction of principle. The English government used their patronage to purchase a majority. But the mouths of one party were no sooner stopped by pensions and places, than another rose to complain of profusion, in the name of their country, and to ask for new extravagance in their own. A fresh purchase only led to fresh pretensions, and the very pensioners themselves had the effrontery to exclaim against the burthens of which their own faction and corruption had been the cause."

This settled finally in the formation of two or three great families, which, by placing themselves at the service of the British minister, on terms of their own making, monopolized the distribution of patronage, and were too powerful to be thwarted or discountenanced. These are the men of whom it was said, that "if they had all Ireland given to them for an estate, they would ask for the Isle of Man also, as a cabbage garden." As early as this time, the necessity for ruling the Catholic population through their clergy, was urged by Lord Clanbrassill on the government; and the policy was defeated, perhaps as much by the jealousy of the family interest, which could bear no rivals near the throne, as by their bigotry or that of the English parliament.

"Now, my Lord," writes Lord Clanbrassill, "I cannot but think it is highly advisable to attempt to dissolve this close connection between Popery and Jacobitism, and that the most probable method to this effect would be to take their priests under the protection of the government, and oblige them in order to obtain that protection to give security for their good behaviour. One advantage would immediately flow from this plan;—the persons, the number, and the place of abode of all the priests in Ireland would be publicly known, which would be a great check upon them; and when they have tasted the comfort of a legal protection, which would give them a kind of property in their parishes, they will be ready enough to give private informations against the itinerant friars (those restless emissaries of France and the Pretender) who swarm in this country, and devour many little emoluments that would otherwise fall to the share of the parish priests. And I make no doubt but that the Irish parish priests, finding themselves thus indulged, would in time be as good subjects to the King of Great Britain, as the German priests in the Electorate are to the Elector of Hanover."

But it will be said, that the effects did not answer to these anticipations; that conciliation has failed to produce gratitude. Why? because in conceding each particular measure, the principle on which its value depended, was set at nought and abandoned; because in every concession, while bigotry has held the bread in one hand, it has not concealed the stick in the other. Thus, on the passing of the Emancipation Bill, the leaving the education of the priest unprovided for, the niggardly grants for Maynooth, have developed a generation of clerical democrats, looking forward with exultation to separation and a theocratic republic. Other causes of evil, indeed, are behind these: the Catholic disabilities were not all in all; but it is not their least evil, that they have too long excluded other considerations from the public view.

Among the grosser items of mal-administration, incidental to Irish affairs, was the custom of saddling its then separate Exchequer with pensions for non-Irish and jobbing purposes. A curious instance of this abuse occurs in the proposal to pension the King's daughter, the Princess of Hesse; and we wish we could exhibit the Duke of Bedford's hostility to that measure, as founded on loftier principles than his correspondence offers. His objections, timidly put forth, and readily abandoned, are offered in the shape of Exchequer statistics—the overlaid

state of the list, and the danger of parliamentary discontents—considerations of expediency, which smack distastefully of fraud. The winding up of this business is curious, and deserves to be quoted at length, not only on its own account, but for the light it throws on parts of the family history of the Irish peerage. The passage exists in a note made by the Duke, of "heads of business" to be laid before the King:

"May 24th.—As things are circumstanced business may be easily carried on the next sessions; but the leading people must have *douceurs*, a great many of which I must at a proper time lay before his Majesty, by these means he may do what he pleases with that country. The Princess of Hesse may have her pension of 5000*l.*; but other things of the like nature must be given in Ireland. Pensions to the amount of above 5000*l.* per annum have been extinguished since my going to Ireland. \* \*

"To propose the following persons to be made peers:—The Chancellor, if his Majesty shall please to make an augmentation of 500*l.* per annum to his salary, to be created a Baron.<sup>1</sup>—Sir Arthur Gore, a Viscount.<sup>2</sup>—Sir Maurice Crosbie, a Baron.<sup>3</sup>—John Lysaght Sen, a Baron.<sup>4</sup>—William Annesley, Esq., a Baron.<sup>5</sup>—James Stopford, Esq., a Baron.<sup>6</sup> (Agreed to.)—Lord Viscount Castlecomer to be made an Earl.<sup>7</sup>—Lord Tullamore to be made an Earl.<sup>8</sup> [Not the present family.]—Lady Athenry to be made a Countess.<sup>9</sup> (Agreed to.)—Likewise Mr. Cole<sup>10</sup> and Mr. Mason's<sup>11</sup> request to be made Barons. (Not at present.)—And Lord Rusborough to be made a Viscount.<sup>12</sup> (Not agreed to.) \* \*

"The following persons to have pensions during pleasure, for the sums set against their respective names:—

Countess of Drogheda .. .. .	200
Mrs. Gore and her daughters .. .. .	200
Guy More, Esq. .... .	200
John Blennerhassett, Esq. .... .	200
James Hussey, Esq. .... .	200
The Honourable Mrs. Walsingham .. .. .	200
Honourable William Molesworth and Anne his wife, in addition to their pension .. .. .	100"

To complete the picture offered by this document, the memorandum laid before the King, in connexion with its contents, should be taken into account:—

"His Majesty having been pleased to signify his pleasure to the Duke of Bedford, lord-lieutenant of Ireland, that whenever the circumstances of affairs would permit it to be done without prejudice to his service, or discontent to his good subjects of that kingdom, that it be intended to grant a pension upon that establishment of 5000*l.* per annum to H.R.H. the Princess of Hesse Cassel, for her life, and the lives of the princes her children; the Duke of Bedford thinks it is his duty to represent to his Majesty that it is his opinion, that in consideration of the present tranquil state of that kingdom, and the great decrease of the pension list, occasioned by the death of several persons, who had very considerable charges

(1) Created Baron Bowes of Clonlony.

(2) Member of parliament for the borough Donegal, created Baron Saunders and Viscount Sadley of Castle Gore, in the county of Mayo, and in 1762, Earl of Arran, in the county of Galway, on the recommendation of the Earl of Kildare.

(3) Member for the county of Kerry, created Baron of Brandon, county of Kerry; on the recommendation of the Earl of Shannon.

(4) Member for the borough of Charleville, created Baron Lisle of Mountnorth.

(5) Member for the borough of Middleton, created Baron Annesley of Castle Wellan.

(6) Member for the borough of Lethard, created Baron of Courtown, county of Wexford.

(7) John Wandesford, Viscount Castlecomer, created Earl of Wandesford.

(8) Charles Moore, second Lord Tullamore, advanced to the dignity of Earl of Charleville.

(9) Dowager Baroness, created Countess of Brandon, county of Kilkenny.

(10) John Cole, Esq., member for Inniskillen. In the Duke's private Diary this note: "Mr. Cole, member for L., was with me to lay in his pretensions for the title of Ranelagh, which he said was promised to be recommended to the King by the Duke of Devonshire." "I gave no promise but to lay his pretensions before the King,"—created in 1760, Baron Mount Florence of Fermanagh.

(11) Most probably Aland Mason, Esq., member for the county of Waterford.

(12) Joseph Leeson, First Earl of Miltown; advanced to the Viscounty of Rusborough, 1760.

upon it, that the present time is the properest for his Majesty to carry into execution his gracious intentions to his royal daughter and her family, provided his Majesty will be pleased to consent that the following pensions during pleasure, may be likewise placed on that establishment, which, as they are entirely intended for persons resident in that kingdom, and calculated solely to enable me to carry on with success his Majesty's service there, will be the likeliest means to quiet people's minds, who might otherwise be uneasy to see such a great annual sum carried out of their country without having any share of it themselves. This seems likewise the more necessary in order to quiet people's minds there, as his Grace the Duke of Newcastle informs me, that it is for his Majesty's service in this kingdom that Mr. Charlton should have a pension of 1500*l.* per annum for his life on the establishment of Ireland, which I think likewise may be done, without detriment to his service. His Majesty is likewise most humbly desired to approve of the inclosed list of peers proposed to be promoted to higher honours; and of commoners to the peerage; as likewise of persons proposed to be put into the Privy Council: and to permit me humbly to assure him, that considering the difficulties I had to struggle with, the favours now asked for his subjects there, (who are either very considerable in themselves, or by their connections with others,) are far less than what has been usually granted upon the recommendation of former lord-lieutenants, though in times of infinite less difficulty than I had to struggle with."

Whole volumes written on "virtual representation" in general, and the Irish parliaments in particular, could not throw a stronger light on the past and present condition of Ireland, than this little episode. But this is not all. Shortly afterwards Prince Ferdinand was, with the like cool indifference, placed on the Irish pension list for 2,000*l.* per annum. Yet the Duke of Bedford was, for those times, an enlightened and an honest man, let Junius say what he pleases. The system was too powerful to contend against; and everything bent before it.

Passing, however, from great considerations to smaller particulars, we find, here and there, an anecdote of less general import, worth commemoration. These are principally found in the correspondence of Rigby. We shall quote one or two only, and that without much method, and after the "French Falconer" manner, as the matter comes to hand:—

"Nobody is yet returned from the play; and being alone, I think I cannot do better than inform your Grace that to-day has been productive of no events, except that I hear from all hands of those who were at court, that the King appears much easier and happier than he has done for some time past. One circumstance with relation to this tranquillity I have heard from very good authority. I cannot forbear telling you Lord Temple pressed him some days ago very strongly for a pardon for Mr. Byng: his Majesty persevered, and told his lordship flatly he thought him guilty of cowardice in the action, and therefore could not break his word they had forced him to give to his people,—to pardon no delinquents. His lordship walked up to his nose, and, sans autre cérémonie, said, 'What shall you think if he dies courageously?' His Majesty stifled his anger, and made him no reply. I think I never heard of such insolence."

What follows is in pregnant contrast with our own times of gas-lighting and regimental policemen:—

"Though it is eleven o'clock, I must tell you of the most curious of all robberies that was committed last night. A Mrs. Hodges of Hanover Square got into her coach at the playhouse, and from under the seat of the coach, as it was going along, up jumps a thief, and with a pistol in his hand demands her money and jewels, and orders her, upon pain of instant death, to stop her coach at a certain place and let him out, and wish him good night, all which she complied with, and he carried off a thousand pounds' worth of her jewels."

"\* \* On the affair of Mr. Byng, he (Lord Temple) had even gone so far as to sketch out some parallel between the monarch himself and the admiral, in which the advantage did not lie on the side of the battle of Oudenarde."—*Napoleón's Memoirs*, vol. ii. p. 198."

At the present moment, when Ireland is distressed by the sudden failure of the English market for Irish cattle, an extract from a letter of Rigby's is curious:—

"Here Mr. Hely Hutchinson continues his daily attack; and neither Primate, Speaker, or Lord Shannon, dared to oppose resolving that the exportation of live cattle from hence was prejudicial to this country; so I was left alone to speak for it, which I did in the best and strongest terms I was able. He then wanted to bring his resolution to my Lord-Lieutenant, but upon a division he could get but six to proceed to such extremities against 104. His Grace is not satisfied, nor am I much pleased, that they would not show spirit enough not to suffer that matter to be at all stirred."

The letters of Rigby are generally of a light gossiping character; but it is difficult to extract with effect, from his slight and sketchy pencillings, or to make them intelligible without further explanatory details than comport with our space.

In conclusion, they who were not displeased with the contents of the first volume will not dislike the second; and if these letters are less illustrative of leading transactions than might be wished, as contributions to the history of manners, as replete with suggestive details and involuntary exposures, they will repay the trouble of perusal. After all, perhaps, it is by such traits and developments that the history of the Georges will be best understood by posterity.

*Hand-book for Travellers in Central Italy, including the Papal States, Rome, and the Cities of Etruria: with a Travelling Map.* Murray. THE 'Hand-book for Northern Italy' conducted the Italian traveller as far south as Florence, and bounded his route on the west by a triangle, of which Venice, Mantua, and Bologna formed the three points. The present work begins its guidance at Mantua, which place, strange to say, is not included in the map accompanying the book; it also takes the traveller by the canal to Venice, and describes a route from Padua to Ferrara, but a search on the map after Venice and Padua will also be fruitless. Here it may be suggested that a small skeleton map of the whole of Italy, no matter how small, would be a very welcome addition to all the hand-books for Italy. Travellers like to see at a glance the whole extent of their proposed journeys, and the relative position of each object. Comparatively few travellers will adhere to the precise boundaries which a hand-book sets to itself for its own convenience. An outline of the whole country, covering a few inches, might easily be inserted in any of the blank corners of each map.

This hand-book is chiefly a guide to Rome and its environs: out of 540 pages, 300 are devoted to Rome, whilst the remainder refer to the country intermediate between Bologna and Rome. In order to form a just estimate of the value of this or any other such work, nothing less than a survey of the places and objects themselves, with the book in hand, will suffice. We do not pretend to have crossed the Apennines for the express purpose of writing this notice, and are, therefore, so far disqualified; but we have given to the work a careful perusal, and, notwithstanding some few details which want correction, it may be justly pronounced to be a careful and laborious compilation, and worthy to take rank with Mr. Murray's other hand-books. More matter of fact and precise in its information than the 'Hand-book of Northern Italy,' the production of a different writer, it takes a somewhat less extensive grasp of general objects, and its descriptions are, perhaps, rather less animated and picturesque. But for the very reasons that it is inferior as a

narrative, it may be better as a guide book: the object of "guiding" is not the same as "describing" or portraying; and it strikes us that the 'Hand-book of Central Italy' is a more complete guide book, so far as it goes, than its Northern companion. In respect of one of the most important classes of objects—Painting—we have no doubts at all that it is so. On this subject, however, we would suggest that the writer should make himself acquainted with Buchanan's 'Memoirs of Paintings' and other modern works, and especially the Catalogues of the sales of pictures which took place about the period of the French Revolution, and thus trace the present owners of the pictures mentioned in his Hand-book. Ascertaining at the places themselves the legend of the early existence of a particular work of art, it would be pleasant for the traveller, when he returns home, to know where such a work is still to be seen. Without this information, the history and interest of the work is but half developed, and the picture itself is but an abstraction. Thus, the visitor at Città di Castello is informed that the Palazzo Bufalini was "designed by Vignola, during his mission to the city from Gregory XIII. for the settlement of the confines between Rome and Tuscany. It was injured by the earthquake of 1789; great part of it was destroyed, and little of its grandeur now remains. Previous to that event, Cardinal Bufalini, while bishop of Ancona, added a gallery which contained the St. John Baptist of Parmigiano, and other fine pictures." Is not this very St. John Baptist the picture called the 'Vision of St. Jerome' in our own National Gallery? Assuming the fact, how much increased interest would the tourist take both in the Bufalini Palace and his own National Gallery, in being reminded that this picture was purchased out of the ruins by Mr. Douro, an English artist, and that it passed successively from him through the hands of the Marquess of Abercorn—of Mr. Hart Davis—of Mr. Watson Taylor, into the British Institution, and is now finally located in Trafalgar Square. This appears to us a point worthy consideration. So also would be the amplification and improvement of his Index. Why is this picture omitted from the index? Why, under the head of frescoes, are omitted those of Giotto, at p. 93, and of Masaccio, at p. 236, among the most interesting of all for the history of early art? We have glanced at these omissions with no thought of depreciating the worth of the book, but rather in the desire to see it made more perfect. We are fully aware of the great labour involved in the compilation of such works, and of the risks of inaccuracy and incompleteness, and, therefore, we offer these friendly suggestions.

There is much historical anecdote happily and pointedly introduced into this volume. When the reader pays his next visit to the National Gallery, he may, whilst contemplating the portrait of Pope Julius II., ascribed to Raffaele, recall to mind the following:—

"Immediately before the great door of this church (San Petronio, at Bologna) stood that famous colossal bronze statue of Pope Julius II., executed by Michael Angelo, after the reconciliation of their quarrel on the subject of the Moses. The Pope, at his own request, was represented with a sword in his left hand, and in the act of reprimanding the Bolognese with his right. But this great masterpiece lasted only five years. In 1511, on the return of Bentivoglio, it was broken up by the people, and the bronze, said to have weighed 17,300 lbs., was sold to the Duke of Ferrara, who converted it into a piece of ordnance, under the appropriate name of the Julian. It is recorded of this statue, the loss of which will ever be deplored by the lovers of art, that when Michael Angelo asked the warlike pontiff whether he should put a book in his left hand, he replied, 'A book! no; let me grasp a sword: I know nothing of letters.'"

It was in connexion with the Church of S. Procolo, at Bologna, that the well-known lines of running alliterations originated:—

"On a wall adjoining the church, the following inscription to the memory of a person called Procolo, buried in the church, who was killed by one of the bells falling on him as he was passing under the campanile, was much admired in the last century, when this kind of play upon words was more in fashion than it is now:—

Si procul a Proculo Proculi campana fuisse  
Jam procul a Proculo Proculus ipse foret."

The handbook does not forget to notice the *mortadella*, or famous Bologna sausage; nor the *cervellato*, or pudding of raisins and fine kernels; but is apparently oblivious of the famous street cries of Bologna—

Thy thousand cries  
So well portrayed, and by a son of thine,  
Whose voice had swelled the hubbub in his youth—  
oblivious both of the actual sonorous cries themselves, and of Annibale Caracci's drawings of them.

We should like to quote at length the passage relating to the Pineta, or Pine Forest of Ravenna—"Ravenna's immemorial wood"—the scene of Boccaccio's 'Nastagio degli Onesti,' the incidents of which Dryden appropriated in his 'Theodore and Honoria;' the scene, too, which made Lord Byron exclaim, "How, raising our eyes to heaven, or directing them to the earth, can we doubt of the existence of God? or how, turning them to what is within us, can we doubt that there is something more noble and durable than the clay of which we are formed?" As more than half this handbook belongs to Rome, it seems to us to have a good title to the possession of a map of the city, which is, in fact, indispensable.

The notices of the paintings in Rome are good and ample. In the remarks on the Sistine Chapel, it is stated that the painting of the roof engaged Michael Angelo for upwards of four years, and not twenty months, according to the traditional belief. We have understood that not long since some papers of accounts, belonging to the period when the frescoes were painted, were found, which satisfactorily proved, by a sequence of payments, that the great artist must have been employed on these miraculous works at least for a period exceeding three years and a half. Indeed, bearing in mind the colossal proportions of the figures, an attentive study of the designs conclusively proves that the amount of bodily labour was such, that the painting of this roof must have occupied very considerably more than twenty months. Our attention was called to this subject by an artist who made a careful calculation of the extent of the work. Bearing in mind, too, that being in fresco, the pictures must of necessity have been executed in small portions, his conclusion was, that it must have been a work of at least three years and a half; and this estimate has since been substantiated by the accounts before mentioned. An anecdote or two of the 'Last Judgment' may be acceptable:—

"It is a remarkable fact in the history of the picture, that it narrowly escaped destruction in the lifetime of the great artist. Paul IV. took offence at the nudity of the figures, and wished the whole to be destroyed. On hearing of the Pope's objection, Michael Angelo said, 'Tell the Pope that this is but a small affair, and easily to be remedied; let him reform the world, and the pictures will reform themselves.' The Pope, however, employed Daniele da Volterra to cover the most prominent figures with drapery, an office which procured for him the epithet *Brachettone*, or the breeches-maker. Michael Angelo submitted to the Pope's will, but revenged himself on Messer Biagio, of Siena, the master of the ceremonies, who first suggested the indecency of the figures. He introduced him in the right angle of the picture, standing in hell, as Midas, with ass's ears, and his body surrounded by a serpent. Biagio complained to the

Pope, who requested that it might be altered: but M. Angelo declared that it was impossible; for though his holiness was able to effect his release from purgatory, he had no power over hell. In the last century, Clement XII. thought that the process of Daniele da Volterra had not been carried far enough, and in his fastidious scruples did serious injury to the painting by employing Stephano Pozzi to add a more general covering to the figures. We see it, therefore, under many disadvantages: the damp of two centuries and a half, the smoke of the candles and incense, and the neglect which it has evidently experienced, have obscured its effect, and impaired the brightness of its original colouring. The accidental explosion of the powder magazine in the Castle of St. Angelo, in 1797, which shook the buildings to their foundations, is said to have seriously injured all the frescoes in the Vatican."

With the following, relative to Domenichino's master-piece, the 'Communion of St. Jerome'—a worthy companion to Raffaello's 'Transfiguration'—we shall conclude:—

"It was painted for the church of Ara Celi, but the monks quarrelled with Domenichino and put the picture out of sight. They afterwards commissioned Poussin to paint an altarpiece for the church, and instead of supplying him with new canvas, they sent him the St. Jerome to be painted over. He not only refused to commit such sacrilege, but threw up his engagement, and made known the existence of the picture, declaring that he knew only two painters in the world, Raphael and Domenichino."

#### Hand-Book for Travellers in France: with Five Travelling Maps. Murray.

THOUGH Mrs. Bray, Mr. Dawson Turner, Mr. Hughes, the Strutts, Professor Whewell, Mrs. Boddington, Miss Costello, Mrs. Ellis, Mr. Trollope, Mr. Clifton Paris, Monsieur Emile Souvestre, and numberless others have all done well in laying open the provinces of France to the tourist, a Guide-Book of condensed information has long been eminently needed. The editor of this series has collected his stores no less carefully than usual; although, owing to the immense number of objects embraced, there are fewer extractable passages than usual in the present Hand-Book. It is to be hoped that this volume will invite many to the districts it describes: not the class of our established summer tourists whose name is Legion, but our poets and our thinkers. Their presence, by habituating Breton, Norman, Limousin, or Basque to the courtesies of an intimate and peaceful intercourse with the English, must strengthen the—

bond divine,

Which bindeth land to land in golden chain,  
on both sides of the channel. If our neighbours are slow in going forth to gather a cosmopolitan spirit, all well-wishers of peace and civilization should be proportionately earnest and careful in carrying it amongst them.

#### Railway Reform: its Expediency and Practicality considered. Pelham Richardson.

THE apathy of the government to that astonishing revolution in the interests, customs, and fortunes of the English people, which the creation of a new power and the introduction of a new element in civilization has been rapidly accomplishing, and which the last ten years have nearly achieved,—the apathy with which it has regarded the public interests and public well-being during a period so pregnant with the fortunes of futurity, forms only one of many proofs, which thinking men are every day able to reckon, of the growing imbecility for good to the commonwealth of a government in which the interests of party, the honours or emoluments of place, and the conventionalities and precedents included within four walls of a house of parliament, are conceived to comprise all the duties, ambitions, and functions of the rulers

of a great empire. The *laissez faire* system, so grateful to the indolence of red-tape officiality, so soothing to the pomposity of green cloth boards,—this system, as far as railways are concerned, has resolved itself into the do-nothingness of official incompetency; and to reign without governing seems the only principle which presides over the great mercantile and commercial interests of an intelligent people. Why, what a folly does it seem, that such matters of fact, of finance, and almost of personal freedom, as railways, in which the most intelligent, industrious, and wealthy part of the community daily, deeply and so extensively suffer or enjoy,—that such matters which now form a third class in the great necessities of life—food, raiment, and locomotion,—that such gigantic public works, forming the greatest of the possessions of an empire, are allowed to grow, to prosper, or to perish, to spread misfortune or create wealth, to repress industry or to urge it forward under the legislation of chance or the guidance of accident, the direction of personal whim or caprice. Yet this *laissez faire* system is that which truly expresses the principles of the British government with reference to British railways.

"This should not be"—is a verdict easily obtained from intelligent men, but unhappily our complaint against the system of non-interference is an evil to be at once met by the anticipation of the greater evils of unwise interference. To let alone, is, it must be granted, the best maxim for unwise rulers. When we shall have arrived at Mr. Carlyle's Millennium, the wisest and the best men in highest place and power, then, indeed, we may begin to desire, in all things, the guidance, and direction, and active co-operation of the fathers of the people in our affairs; till then, we are better, perhaps, let alone. Such specimens as the railway public have already had of the wisdom and practical tact of the railway department of the Board of Trade, have not hitherto tended to raise any very high expectations of the benefit that would result from extending its functions and power.

Yet such is the object of the publication at the head of this notice; and such certainly has been the apparent tendency of some of our own remarks on the British railway system. We have shown the irretrievable losses that have been sustained by the neglect of government, by its having failed to direct and systematize the efforts of opposing lines, so that while some portions of the kingdom are intersected with rival, redundant, profitless railways, others of great importance are left wholly without the necessary means of communication, as is especially shown in the want of any great lines, passing directly towards Ireland, for the rapid transmission of mails, and of any great northern line into Scotland. We have shown, in detail, (see *ante*, pp. 325, 433) how a wise and well-timed direction of our energies would have saved to the country many millions of profitless capital, and have extended far and wide the blessings of the railway system. We have only one comfort—that while a hypothetical wise interference would have achieved much good, the actual foolish interference would have done incalculable mischief.

Certain it is, however, that the centralized management of all the railways of Great Britain as one great system, might, if wisely conducted, be rendered most beneficial not only to the users of the railway transport, but equally to the holders of railway stock. Certain it is that the enormous profits of many lines, applied to cover the losses of others less profitable but still most important, would tend to diminish the risks and equalize the gains, and, of course, to enhance the value of railway stock. We have shown at how much less interest the Belgian

government has raised its capital than our railway companies have done; and we have seen how much the public have in that kingdom benefited by the consequent low fares and extensive traffic. The same centralization of system, absence of fluctuation, uniformity and economy of construction, continuity and cheapness of conveyance, as on the Belgian lines, would be of incalculable benefit to railway property if adopted in this country.

This pamphlet is designed to advocate the adoption in this country of one central system of railway management and the consolidation of railway stock, along with a cheap and uniform tariff. We welcome it as a laudable effort in what we conceive to be the right direction. It is a book on which great care and much labour have been bestowed. As an analysis of the value of railway property, it deserves the perusal of the holders of railway stock. Its general views coincide entirely with those we have been accustomed to advocate, and if the precise plan which it proposes be not the best possible practical scheme, it is at least one which deserves careful examination. Its full and accurate tables are valuable as statistical documents, and are convenient for reference, even independent of the reasoning they are adduced to sustain.

We shall best serve the interests of the cause of railway reform, by submitting to our readers the following *résumé* of the arguments and facts adduced in the work itself. The first part of the paper examines the evils of the present system as follows:—

"The necessity of an examination into the principles on which our railway system is founded, and the practice by which it is carried out, is attempted to be proved, from the existence of manifold evils and abuses, which it is contended are of such notoriety, that little more is necessary than to point them out. The following are especially referred to:—1st. The exorbitantly high fares charged on most of the great lines of railways in this country, compared with those on the continental lines, especially in Belgium, the fares in that country being *two thirds less* than what they are with us. 2nd. The illegal and extortionate charges which some companies are in the habit of making, with the certainty of being able to do so with impunity. 3rd. Depriving the community of the few privileges which the legislature intended they should possess. \* \* 4th. The injury and annoyance which the public suffer when hostile companies possess different lines of railway connected with each other. 5th. The prejudicial effects to the public interests, when companies so situated enter into a secret combination for keeping up high prices. 6th. The ruinous effects of our system on the poorer classes in this country, and their deprivation to a great extent of the manifold advantages which the establishment of railways is calculated to confer on them."

The second part examines the causes and origin of the present evils. Here the author has omitted to notice the material evils arising from the past neglect of the legislature and the executive, in having permitted the existence of extravagance and expense in the construction of works, allowed competing lines, and failed to prescribe some sound systematic arrangement of the great lines of the country. The evils he notices are, however, sufficiently real.

"It being thus proved, or assumed to be so, that a great change is wanted—that the country is not deriving those benefits from the establishment of railways which they are capable of yielding, the evil is traced to its original source; viz., the state having granted to private parties, for their individual gain, the complete control and management of these great channels of social communication. The total improbability of any change in railway management, by which the public would be benefited, is deduced from the two important facts, which were proved before a Committee of the House of Commons a few years since, without any attempt made to contradict them. 1st. The railway companies in general find it dis-

advantageous to convey passengers at very low rates; for although a great increase of numbers is the result, yet it is not sufficiently great to counterbalance the deficiency in reduced fares. 2nd. The railway companies, when they drive their competitors off the road, and are thus freed from opposition, raise the fares to the highest rate. The London and Brighton Company is the last instance of this system, but they have so far exceeded due limits that several coaches are daily running now. It is therefore contended, that as comparatively high fares are found to pay best, and are charged on the most profitable railways, there is no likelihood of their being reduced, or any practices discontinued that tend to increase the receipts of the respective companies."

The author finally expounds and advocates the great doctrines of low fares, large trains, a centralization of management, and a consolidation of stock.

"The difficulty of dealing with the subject is then noticed: it is observed that as a contract has been entered into between the legislature and railway proprietors, no step could be taken to the prejudice of the latter—no measures could be adopted by Parliament respecting their property, that would have the effect of reducing their profits, without due compensation being made, but at the same time it is contended that the legislature have a perfect right to deal with railway property in the same manner as any other that the welfare of the state may require. The manner in which railways are conducted in this country is noticed at considerable length, and contrasted with what it might be under a different system—one which would render their usefulness entirely subservient to the public good. It is contended that under the present system, as the greatest gain to the shareholders is the only object of those who have the management of railways, the convenience of the public is only so far consulted as it may conduce to that end. In proof of the extent of usefulness which railways are capable of conferring on the community, especial attention is directed to two points. 1st. The almost unlimited capabilities of railways for all purposes of transit. 2nd. The great waste of locomotive power in the conveyance of passengers and merchandise. The truth of the first proposition is so well known, that little more is done than direct attention to it as an acknowledged fact, but the second is discussed at considerable length, and a great variety of statistical and documentary evidence is adduced to prove that the locomotive power at present in daily use is fully sufficient to do three times its present work,—that consequently two thirds of it are going to waste. It is endeavoured to be shown that if fares were reduced so low that the number of passengers would be trebled, that the aggregate expense would be but slightly increased, and reference is made to some railway companies which have reduced their fares very low, and in consequence have nearly trebled their former number of passengers without the slightest increase in expense; to avoid, however, any dispute on that point, 25 per cent. for extra expenditure has been assumed would be incurred by such a large increase of passengers. \* \* After noticing the difficulties and disadvantages attending the first and second plans, the third is suggested as being the most feasible, and the manner in which it is proposed to carry it out is explained at considerable length. The outline is as follows:—The estimated value of railway property is about 63,000,000 sterling; the value of the first class is 48,000,000, paying 5 per cent. per annum at the present current prices of shares, and the second class 15,000,000, paying in round numbers not more than 4 per cent. on their quotations of shares, the prices of which are in many cases merely nominal; it being obvious that bad property would not be purchased to pay only 4 per cent., when good property could be obtained that would pay 5 per cent. It is proposed that the state should purchase the whole of this property at the current price of shares, paying the present holders in 3 per cent. consols, on such liberal terms as would not only be a bonus to the present holders, but prevent the Government from having recourse to a loan."

"It is proposed that when Government should thus have got possession of all the railway property in the kingdom, a uniform rate of fares and charges should be made, which should not on an average exceed one

third of the present charges. The proposed scale is as follows:—

Mail passengers, 2d. per mile, travelling at the rate of 35 miles per hour.				
1st class 1d.	do.	do.	do.	25 do.
2nd do. 1d.	do.	do.	do.	15 do.
3rd do. 1d.	do.	do.	do.	10 do.
4th do. 1d.	do.	do.	do.	5 do.

Merchandise, cattle, &c., at one third of the present charges.

"Some of the good effects of this proposed change are then pointed out. 1st. The great stimulus to trade and commerce by such a great reduction in the charges of transit. 2nd. Reduction in price of the necessities of life. 3rd. The saving to the public of three millions sterling, in direct taxation, to say nothing of what would be saved in indirect taxation. 4th. The Government being enabled to carry out fully Mr. Rowland Hill's plan of Post Office reform, as the transmission of mails would be free. 5th. The saving to parishes by the removal of paupers free. 6th. The saving to the country in the conveyance of troops, military and naval stores, bullion, &c. 7th. The universal good to all classes, rich and poor, by their being enabled for any purpose, whether of health, business, or pleasure, to derive all the advantages which a comparatively free intercourse throughout the country can afford. Statistical calculations are then entered on to show what might be the results in a financial point of view. It is proved from the returns of two railways, the Glasgow and Greenock and Dublin and Kingstown, the proprietors of which have adopted a very low scale of fares, that the increase of passengers has more than made up for the reduction in charges. The Glasgow and Greenock Railway is 22½ miles in length, and the fares last year were reduced two thirds, or what amounts to nearly the same thing, passengers were enabled to travel at one third of the previous lowest charge,—the result was, that the number of passengers increased in the course of a few weeks from 12,000 to 33,000, and the company gained considerably by the change:—the fare for the entire distance is only 6d. The effects of the system adopted on the Dublin and Kingstown Railway is adduced as a strong proof of the safety with which Government might, in a financial point of view, make a great reduction in the charges. The directors of that company, about two years since, reduced their fares to such a low scale, that one class of passengers is actually carried at the rate of half a farthing per mile, and the affairs of the company have improved so much by the change, that the shares, which were previously at 18 per cent. discount, are now at 7 per cent. premium. Attention has been particularly directed to the important fact, that in both these companies—the only two in the kingdom which have adopted very low fares—no increase whatever in the expenditure has resulted from the change, although on the Dublin and Kingstown Railway the number of passengers had increased for the last year upwards of 400,000. It is, however, freely admitted, that the adoption of the proposed scale of charges would, on the great majority of railways, cause a great diminution in the gross receipts, on some railways, perhaps, not less than a third; but it is endeavoured to be shown, that the profit which the Government would otherwise have, that is to say, the difference between the amount now received by railway proprietors and the sum which would be paid by Government in dividends, would fully make up the deficiency."

*Vigils*.—[*Vigilien*, &c.] By Leopold Schefer. Guben, Berger.

A review of Leopold Schefer's Breviary for Laics was given in the *Athenæum* a few years ago (No. 437). The same seriousness and strength of moral purport which we noticed in that work characterize the '*Vigils*' lately published; and the same defect of abstraction, and direct didactic teaching, belong to the blank verse of the '*Vigils*,' and the versified lessons of the Breviary. The argumentative and didactic purport of these verses has prevented their writer from attending duly to the attributes of Poetry, which should convey its implied principles in a style less direct and abstract. But any genuine poetry is welcome in the present day, when many are still persisting in the dream of acquiring Fame by epics of the *past* and names

bearing no relation to actual society and living interest. With slow steps, the genius of Poetry is passing on through its meditative to its lyrical development: but the time for *pure song* does not seem to have yet arrived.

The doctrines of the *Vigils* may remind some of the Bhagavad Gita, while their ethical purport accords, in many respects, with the meditations of Marcus Antoninus. We shall not attempt any criticism, but content ourselves with extracting a few specimens of the '*Vigils*.' Our second paraphrase is very applicable to a time when many are in danger, amid controversies about sacred things, of forgetting the substance in the sign, and making a religion of mere names. We could say many things of the false notion of piety, confined to topics of discourse rather than guiding the whole spirit of it, and of the wide contrast between our so-called religious and our profane literature produced by such a mistake; but these are thoughts that must suggest themselves to every meditative mind upon such a theme.

#### The Blessed.

Blessed are they who see and yet believe not!  
Yea, blest are they who look on graves, and still  
Believe none dead; who see proud tyrants ruling,  
And yet believe not in the strength of Evil;  
Who see vast temples standing, yet believe not  
That they are shrines of man's pride; who see  
Priests, yet believe them not wiser than men.  
And blest are they who see the evil-doer  
In wealth and honour, yet will not believe  
That he is otherwise than poor and wretched!  
Blessed are they who see the wandering poor,  
And yet believe not that their God forsakes them;  
Who see the blind worm creeping, yet believe not  
That even that is left without a path;  
Who see the sun down-going and up-rising,  
And yet believe not in his changefulness;  
Who see the flowers up-springing from the ground,  
And yet believe not they were dead before;  
Who see the countless children of mankind,  
Believing only in the power of God.  
Blessed are they who see and yet believe not;  
For they who say they see believe are wretched.

#### Signs and Substance.

You tell us nought of God, nor of the Sun,  
Nor of the life of men all o'er the world.  
Nought? I nought? I tell you all things of them all.  
Even when I talk but of a violet,  
A leaf, or mark a single footstep well,  
Say I not clearly something of the earth?  
Can I say rain, and not point out the clouds?  
Or speak of clouds, and not point out the heavens?  
As in the child you see the mother too,  
And in a single word the spirit feel  
Who speaks and lives and is in it so near you?  
And when I point you to the glowing rose,  
The snowy lily or the mountain blue,  
Or silver-shining stream, then show I not  
The Sun, and in those colours speak of light?  
And when I mark a child, a beam of light,  
Or moonlight rainbow gleaming on the earth,  
Tell I not then the glory of the sun?  
And cannot he who sees you see your father?

#### Thanksgiving for Sorrows.

To care for others that they may not suffer  
What we have suffered is for divine well-doing.  
The noblest vote of thanks for all our sorrows!  
And only thus the good man giveth thanks  
To God, and also to humanity.  
Which hourly is in need of aid and guidance.  
And who has not known misery? dear soul!  
Who would not thank God for his sorrows all  
When, in their working, they become so sweet!  
Good for ourselves and for humanity!  
'Tis thus the roots of the aloë-tree are bitter,  
But cast upon the glowing coals, how sweet,  
How lasting and diffusive is their fragrance!  
Yea, I have seen a lame and halting child  
Prop up most tenderly a broken plant:  
And a poor mother whose own child was burnt  
Snatch from the flame the children of another.  
So, generous man, return thou constant thanks  
For all thy griefs to God and to mankind,  
And ending grief will make amending joy!  
Or, if it end not, it will be pure blessing  
While, in the trying furnace, thou dost good.  
And if from woe released and happy, spread  
Thy happiness all round thee. So doth God.  
Suffering or happy, man! be always thankful.

#### Plain Answer.

This dull, dark strife with unilluminated souls,  
Ending not with the day, but every morning  
A fresh returning for another day—  
Such warfare makes, at last, the noblest mind  
Heavy and hopeless—earnestly I wish  
'Twere done, that I might rest and silent be!  
So speak you. But distinguish well the truth.  
The conflict is not gloomy. Grieved, you see  
Around you but a dull, distracted house,  
The old, false world, with evil deeds, wrong words,  
Heavily pressing on all noble minds.

Unreasonable minds are always gloomy :  
The conflict is right clear, in daylight waged,  
With brightness ever pressing on the gloom !  
Nor is your conflict with irrational :  
(For all would wiser be, and every one  
Has faculties for better—wiser—growing.)  
See, then ! your only conflict is with men,  
And your sole strife is to defend and teach  
The unilluminated, who without such care,  
Must perish. Every unenlightened man  
Commends himself to you, ev'n as your child.  
How easily for him and for yourself  
Life's burden may be lighten'd ! by your words  
Opening the spring of truth in his own breast,  
And cleansing out the roots of all his errors,  
Destroying, ev'n with a single word,  
A coming harvest of injurious weeds !  
If, then, the Better never must grow weary  
But always think of better and fulfil it,  
How shall the wiser weary of his task ?  
To show the right and for the truth contend ?  
How shall the heart of the good man grow weary,  
Though hand and tongue are worn out in his work ?  
And how can gentleness be ever weary ?  
(For all true love is gentle, falling on  
Men's souls as gentle rains upon the earth.)  
How can you e'er grow weary of the truth ?  
Weary of gentleness and genuine love ?  
Be well and happy therefore in the strife !  
And keep love in your heart all life's day long,  
Till like the eternal stars its beams are spread.

#### The Fountain.

What one can never do for me again,  
That I'll not do for him. To none I owe  
That he ne'er did for me and ne'er can do.  
And thus will you live justly, well and calmly ?  
No ; not even so ; say nought of useful, noble,  
Divine and human life (the two are one).  
Then first of all, grant not your child a grave ;  
For sure your child can never bury you !  
Follow no friend to his last resting-place ;  
For he can never rise to follow you !  
Give no poor weary even a crust of bread,  
Lest he should never meet you and return it !  
Clothe not the poor till he can so clothe you !  
And bind not up your house-dog's broken limb ;  
He'll ne'er return that self-same benefit—  
The hound can only bark and keep your door.  
The beggar only prays, " reward you God !"  
But I say : *whatsoever thing you do*  
*None other can do that for you again.*  
Either that same thing you may never need,  
Or if you need it, it may not be found.  
Humanity will always be around you,  
Hear then my counsel, hear the word divine—  
To every man give that which most he needs,  
Do that which he can never do for you !  
Thus live you like the spring that gives you water,  
And like the grape that sheds for you its blood,  
And like the rose that perfumes sheds for you,  
And like the bread that satisfies your need,  
And like the clouds that pour their rains for you,  
And like the sun that shines so gladly for you,  
And like the earth that bears you on her bosom,  
And like the dead who left their care for you !  
You cannot teach the dead, nor bless the heavens,  
Nor hear the earth, nor give the sun more glory,  
Nor clouds more rain ; you cannot nourish bread,  
Nor give the rose its fragrance, nor the vine  
Its sap, nor can you feed the water-springs.  
And now, what were you if none did for you  
What you ne'er did and ne'er can do for him ?  
For what can you return to God for all ?  
Your very spirit means His spirit—*given*—  
Then, like that spirit, freely, purely, truly,  
Divinely, do for every one your best.  
Thus only can you live in righteousness,  
In heavenly peace, joyful and free from care,  
Thus you will live even as His spirit lives,  
Thus you will in this very kingdom dwell.  
Do all for men that they do not for you !

These are very pure and good lessons, and at least simply and clearly inculcated. Would that attention to such clear and comprehensible matters could take the place of the fashionable topics of controversy among us !

There is wisdom drawn from the example of a child in our next extract. As the child, unconsciously, lives in the enjoyment of the whole truth, so the man is called to bring his conscience and his science to the same simplicity and perfection.

#### Children's Laughter.

How soon and easily a little child  
Acquainted grows with father, mother, sister,  
With day and night, with sunshine and with moonlight,  
With spring and harvest, and with birth and death !  
" Thus is it in my Father's house," thinks he,  
And never wonders at the already done,  
But only at the new that comes to pass—  
Easier to him seems life than A. B. C.  
So willingly he sees funeral trains,  
Admires the garland laid upon the coffin,  
Beholds the narrow, last house of man,  
Looks in the grave and hears, without a fear,  
The dust fall down upon the coffin-lid.  
With joy he stands beside his new-born sister,  
Admires the snowy dress, her first array,  
And sees her placed upon the mother's breast.

It grieves him not when, in pale harvest-time,  
The meadows cease to put forth gentle flowers.  
He gladdens when the flowers return again,  
And learns the name of the all-beauteous season,  
The name of Spring—he learns the name of day.  
When the bright sun is up, and names the night,  
When hosts of stars array themselves in heaven,  
While softly at his mother's side he sleeps,  
And early in the morn awakens he.  
Thus lives the child unbounded and immortal,  
Lives in the work and blessing of the Power  
From whom proceed home, father, mother, sister,  
Flowers, fruits, and sun, and moon, and every hair  
On his own head—the child believes in all.  
Thus let the man this holy bond of union  
Behold in constant gladness of heart,  
In which the tenderest blossoms of the spring,  
The earth with men full-crowded, and the sun  
That sheds on all his glory, live together.  
He *lead* lives with the greatest in this bond :  
The springing grass points to the highest heavens !  
The tiniest sand-grain to Eternity !  
The dew drops tell us of serene love,  
The shade a flower casts tells of holy light,  
A child's glad laughter tells Heaven's happiness,  
And a poor beggar with her tatter'd child  
May point the road to God for rest and quiet.  
To learn of life, however humble, true,  
The cheerful and divine interpretation,  
Perform the little as you would the great,  
The transitory as the ever-during,  
And in the mind of God your life-day spend.

With one more extract we conclude ; and here an universal but undeveloped and unrealized thought is exhibited in a very beautiful style :—

#### The Sick Child.

Your child was seized with sickness in the night,  
And now all possible expedients,  
All careful thoughts, arise within your breast ;  
Yet bow you not before an idol's shrine,  
Nor promise you an offering to the Priest :  
You seek but insight, counsel, strength and quiet.  
Nor bend you down "neath dread necessity,  
Nor of predestination vainly dream.  
How find you now security and rest ?  
Who helps you now ? How shall your child recover ?  
Be calm, dear soul, remember—God is here !  
In every moment and in every man,  
In every power, in every atom yonder,—  
And " God is here"—what mean the words, dear soul ?  
But constant power is here, all might and love !  
And wisdom and all-penetrating skill,  
The tenderest, surest, and most perfect art !  
As He the all-perfect Builder is of all  
These blossoms and these tenderest seeds of flowers,  
And you bright glories of the firmament,  
So is He their indwelling healer too  
Do what you can—let all do what they can  
Upon this earth, in yonder starry sphere,  
Wound or destroy blossoms, moving things and men ;  
Yea, if you can, put out the light of suns—  
Still God is there—immediately there—  
Asserts Himself in every drop of blood ;  
There as the sap in the rose's root he moves ;  
There in the warmth-and-life-diffusing fire,  
The life-power and the healing-power of all ;  
All that he owns is healing,  
Quietly, gently, softly but most surely—  
He helps the loveliest herb with wounded stalk  
To rise again—see ! from the heavens fly down  
All gentle powers to cure the blinded lamb !  
Deep in the treasure-house of wealthy Nature  
A ready secret instinct wakes and moves  
To clothe the naked sparrow in the nest,  
Or trim the plumage of an aged raven ;—  
Yea, in the slow decaying of a rose  
God works as well as in the unfolding bud ;  
He works with gentleness unspeakable  
In death itself, a thousand times more careful  
Than ev'n the mother by her sick child watching.  
Now !—God is here—in this afflicted child,  
In every vein throughout his heavenly form.  
" 'Tis He who wakes beside him in the mother ;  
" 'Tis He that gives good counsel by the father ;  
In the physician's hand He brings the help ;  
Through all the means He lives—through all the buds,  
And all the roots of the medicinal herb—  
Lives in this morning light—this morning breath,  
Lives in the lark that sings his song up yonder,  
To cheer the child who hears and faintly smiles ;  
Lives in the sun that yonder shines, and here  
Lives in this spring-green and yon heavenly blue ;  
Lives everywhere with all might, perfect love.  
I do believe in the all-present God—  
The everliving—therefore speak I not  
Of his predestination, nor fore-seeing,  
But of his being and his seeing now !  
With Him no yesterday—eternal now !  
In no cold fate believe I, but in Life,  
The glowing love of the all-present God.

Therefore whatever happen to your child,  
Whether to-morrow mid the flowers he plays,  
Or in a few days we must bear this form,  
Decked with fresh violets, to the cold grave,  
There to repose beside his ancestors—  
This wonder of all wonders we'll remember—  
All things the living, loving God can do.  
Thus, come what will, we honour still our Father  
And this child's Father—the all-present God.  
Next morning mid the flowers the child was playing.

#### On the Nature of Thunder Storms, and on the Means of protecting Buildings and Shipping against the Destructive Effects of Lightning.

By W. SNOW HARRIS, F.R.S. PARKER.

This is the work of a man who is master of his subject, and who has only to consider how he may most clearly convey his knowledge to his reader. It is written with all the freshness of actual knowledge and experience ; in short, it is just the book that ought to have been written on this subject, because it is written by the individual who has studied the subject in all its bearings more than any other person. It is a mixed subject, theoretical and practical, and furnishes a valuable illustration of the importance of scientific truth to the practical uses of mankind.

The injury done to St. Martin's spire by lightning, in 1842, is the motto of this treatise, and it is, we admit, a disgrace either to the national intelligence, or to science—we know not which—that lightning should ever damage any building whatever ; for a small application of purse and of head would prevent these catastrophes ; and yet this very week the papers are filled with accounts of damage done in many of our large towns by thunder-storms. Prejudice and ignorance are, however, still greater obstructions to the true interests of mankind even than parsimony, and the object of the present book is to eradicate these, by diffusing, in a popular form, sound scientific and practical information on the subject of securing life and property from destruction by lightning. We cannot better introduce the subject than by an account of the case we have already alluded to, as most familiar to our metropolitan readers.

St. Martin's church was struck by lightning on the 28th of July, 1842. The spire is a light hollow structure, forty-four feet high, standing on an open cupola, and surrounded by ornamental columns and arches. The floor of this cupola is covered with lead, and there is a massive frame-work of wood and iron resting on it ; the spire terminates in an iron rod formed into a spindle at its extreme point for the support of the vane, four to five inches square and twenty-seven feet long ; its extreme point being about two hundred feet from the ground. Beneath the cupola is the dial room, containing the iron spindles of the clock faces, and these are connected by an upright spindle with the clock itself, which is in an apartment forty-six feet below. Under the dial room are the bells, and beneath the clock room is the ringers' chamber, on a level with the roof of the church itself.

The first point struck was the vane-spindle, and the electric discharge passed into the spire by the long iron rod already described, and so far as this rod continued no damage was done to the building, but at the bottom of the rod there existed no metallic conductor to carry the fluid further, and it had to force its way through the masonry, starting an angle stone, and thence downwards, and so shattered the spire as to leave it in a tottering state. Two blocks of stone were thrown completely out of their places, and fell through the roof into the church ; the joints of the spire were all loosened, and its general surface contorted. Two other stones were dislocated, and if these had also been thrown out, the whole of the upper portion of the spire must have fallen. Arrived at the floor of the cupola, the discharge forced a passage into a metal clamp within the masonry, where it tore up and fractured a large stone, and turned it completely over. Thus it came to the dials, at a point intermediate between the north and west dials, where it *divided*, and fell upon the gold letters XI. and XII., which, especially on the west dial, it burnt up and blackened ; thence it ex-

ploded on the minute hands, blackening the gold and injuring their points. But it had now reached a new metallic conductor, and proceeded without further damage; for by the hands of the clock it reached the spindles of the dial room, and so passed along to the top of the upright spindle, along which it descended forty-six feet downwards with perfect safety to the clock. On reaching the works of the clock the discharge melted a small copper wire, by which the lever handle key was suspended on the iron frame, and spread over the wheels and other parts, magnetized the steel pivots, blackened the silver face of the regulator, and burst open the door of the outer wooden casing, but did not stop the clock! Here once more the metallic conductors ceased, and the discharge had to force a passage through the floor of the clock room, leaving it as if blown up by gunpowder, and, coming out just over one of the iron window frames in the ringers' room, shattered all the glass, and left marks of fusion on small streaks of lead in the joints of the stones. By this course it reached the lead of the roof, and, through the pipes connected with the roof, was carried into the ground without further damage.

On this Mr. Harris remarks:—

"It is impossible to conceive a case giving a better insight into the nature of disruptive discharges, through a fortuitous arrangement of good and imperfect conductors, than this now before us. In the first place, it may be observed, that all the damage has occurred in points where good conducting matter (*i. e.* metal) ceases to be continued: and again, passing along the upright rods and spindles of iron, without even injuring the slender wooden case in which one of these (the clock spindle, forty-six feet long and one inch in diameter) was enclosed."

The conclusion to be deduced from all this is plain: had the iron rod, one inch in diameter, been carried, without interruption, throughout the whole height, from the vane of the spire to the lead of the roof, the damage to that building would have been averted. And yet public bodies, and private individuals, equally neglect the simple precaution necessary to avert such evils.

While London has afforded so satisfactory an illustration of the neglect of simple precaution, as in this case, it also affords us one of the best examples of a successful provision for averting calamity. *The Monument*, erected in commemoration of the Great Fire of London, has (by accident?) a metallic conductor of the best description. "The column," says Mr. Harris, "is terminated by a metallic vase, four or five feet in diameter, surrounded by pointed metallic plates, representing flames of fire: between this and the floor of the gallery are four thick bars of iron, supporting a set of iron steps; one of these bars, an inch thick, and five inches wide, is connected with the iron rail of the staircase, which reaches to the bottom of the building. The whole height of this structure, including the blazing urn at its summit, is 202 feet: it has never yet been damaged by lightning."

The greater part of a century has now elapsed since Franklin first developed the theory of the thunder cloud, and showed how the laws of electrical discharges apply to the discharge of the electricity of the clouds. He proved that when the electric condition of the atmosphere is deranged, and a cloud suspended over the earth becomes in a condition of electric charge opposite to that induced in the corresponding part of the surface of the earth, the cloud may be regarded as the inside of the electric jar, and the earth as the outside;—that powerful forces tend to produce the discharge of the jar. And in this state if any conducting body be interposed, the jar will be discharged with the flash and loud report which we recognize as types of

the lightning flash and the thunder peal; and, on the large scale as on the small, the metals form the best conductors, and will be traversed by the discharge in preference to stone or wood, the ordinary materials of building. It is only when forced to pass through *bad* conductors, as wood or stone, that the electric fluid is injurious; along the metals it will pass without injury, provided they are in sufficient quantity to be preserved without melting under the discharge. It is proved that a rod or pipe of metal an inch in diameter is ample for all uses of this kind.

Is it not then surprising that this simple precaution has not long ago been everywhere attended to? The facts are well known, yet the precautions, which might be so easily taken, are neglected, as indeed the long list of casualties, recently given by Arago in the 'Annuaire' and this work of Mr. Harris, abundantly testify.

When the British Association visited Plymouth in 1841, there was pointed out a beautiful and costly property, containing the far-famed machinery of the Victualling Yard. A fine granite column above a hundred feet high, serving as a chimney, crowns the buildings; yet here our rulers, although compelled by urgent necessity to place conductors on the masts of ships, which these very stores supplied, most sagely omitted to place them on this tower, and this handsome column was shattered by lightning,—it was without a conductor; and the scaffolding which we saw erected for inspecting the damage, and getting a report on the said damage, cost more money than the most perfect conductor would have done! After "the steed was stolen" their workshops set about "fastening the stable door;" and we have no doubt that "the Report of the Inspector having been read, the Board unanimously resolved that the column be thoroughly repaired; and that to prevent a like accident for the future, estimates be received for the erection of a suitable lightning rod to the building." We are not sure, however, that this was done, and it is just possible the Board might have decided that as the chimney had already got its turn, it was not so likely to be struck again (see Harris, page 168).

Of all the places where a lightning stroke could fall, the solitary ship, in the wide ocean, is that which it would visit with the most sure and terrible destruction. There is no doubt that many of our finest ships have perished in thunder storms. The slightest accident which usually occurs is the destruction of masts or spars; next, the damage done to decks and planks by tearing them up and breaking them; then there is the not unfrequent case in which the ship is set on fire; and, finally, the most awful of all, where it fires the magazine, and explodes the ship.

So lately as 1839, the Lords of the Admiralty appointed a commission, at the instance of scientific individuals, to examine into the question of the efficacy of metallic lightning conductors, especially of those which had been constructed on the plans of Mr. Snow Harris. The Report of the Commission, printed by the House of Commons, bears testimony to the obstruction which the introduction of so simple and obvious an improvement encountered in the subordinate departments. The results of the conductors as applied, are, however, satisfactory and incontrovertible. It was ascertained that "every search had been made for cases of injury sustained by ships fitted with conductors, and though several statements to that effect have been brought under our notice, not one has been substantiated."

Again, Mr. Harris informs us that "since the year 1829, above thirty of Her Majesty's ships have had pointed conductors fixed in all their

masts. These vessels have been at sea and exposed to severe thunderstorms in all parts of the world, and although heavy electrical discharges have fallen upon them, yet in no instance has any damage or inconvenience been experienced. On the other hand, about forty-one vessels, not fitted with them, (more than one-fourth of the average number of ships at sea or on foreign stations,) are known to have been struck and damaged during this period.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*The Amnesty; or the Duke of Alba in Flanders*, a historical novel of the sixteenth century, by Charles F. Ellerman, 2 vols.—A "hysterical" novel would have been nearer the truth; since we have spasms for energy, whine for pathos, and the characters dance after the fashion of Saint Vitus, instead of moving to and fro, like rational beings. Mr. Ellerman pleads that this is a first work, written in the intervals of business, by "a cosmopolite, who has spent the greater part of his life in foreign climes, and who has associated with the sons of both temperate and torrid zones."—Further he thus preludes with respect to his hero: "My hero, to some of my readers, may not be quite the 'beau ideal' of their thoughts. I ask of such, why should I create what does not exist? Why should I exalt the hero of a romance, who after all is but a man, into an angel—perfect, when we all of us know, that man is as weak as a reed, and bows to the caprice of Zephyr, when it emanates from a woman's smile, but bends doubled to the earth, when the gales and blasts of Circumstance rage upon him?" It was necessary to prove the justice of our epithet; or we should hardly have troubled the reader with so magnificent a description of a character, with whom, after all, he is not likely to make acquaintance. The names of Egmont, Alba, and Vargas, are to be found in 'The Amnesty,'—but nothing more which lawfully belongs to them.

*A Dream of a Queen's Reign*.—The writer of this strange production might say with Bottom, "I have had a dream,—past the wit of man to say what dream it was: Man is but an ass if he go about to expound this dream."

*Mens Corporis; a Treatise on the Operations of the Mind during Sleep*, by F. H. Elwin, Esq.—Another of those unfortunate attempts to investigate mind, in which scanty, imperfect, and ill understood experience, is made the basis of general reasonings; and in which undefined or ill-defined terms are shuffled, cut, and dealt, till they lose all meaning. The book, however, is not the less the production of an inquiring and apprehensive intellect,—an intellect not indeed sufficiently drilled in the art of thinking, but confined too exclusively within the channels of literary and university tuition; and therefore still below the subject it has attempted to illustrate.

*Suggestions for the Improvement of our Towns and Houses*, by T. J. Maslen.—These suggestions would indeed make our cities very delightful places to live in,—almost, if not quite, equal to the country. But Thames Embankments, a Square near Clare Market, a Circus at Temple Bar, Public Gardens at the Mansion House, and so forth, are but minor and local affairs; it is further recommended, that we should have ten new cities, each capable of containing 300,000 souls, and that two millions a year should be granted by Parliament as a building fund. Perhaps the reader has had enough of explanation.

*A Comparative View of the Constitutions of Great Britain and the United States*, by B. T. Aiken.—A series of lectures delivered originally before a literary society at Bristol, gave rise to this unpretending volume. It contains a concise view of the constitutions of the two countries, fairly and impartially written, without any attempt to disparage either.

*Ancient History, remodelled from Rollin*, by Mary Shoolbred, 3 vols.—An abridgment of Rollin, professedly "with copious notes and extracts from modern authors;" but the chief authority seems to be "Bell's Geography," and we looked in vain for the contributions of those scholars whose labours we supposed would have so greatly assisted in the "remodelling" of Rollin.

*Marriage, a Poem, in Four Cantos*, by the Rev. Dr. Henry Edwards.—The Rev. Dr. Edwards's rhymed discourse upon the honourable estate of matrimony,

with its dedication (concealing, doubtless, some joke, were we keen enough to understand it,) and its notes, containing anecdotes of broken-hearted Princes of Villages and scandalous old maids, has, it appears, found sympathizers, and reached a third edition; while Wordsworth, for his eighth volume, is compelled to rest content with fit audience, but fewer. The reader, we think, will echo our surprise, when he has been treated to a glimpse of the Rev. Dr. Henry Edwards singing, after the fashion of Florel, to—

*Selma of the Vale.*

I've welcomed oft morn's orient gem,  
And eke the balmy gale;  
Yet would I prize far more than them  
Selma of the Vale!

The damask rose has charms, 'tis true,  
The pink, the violet pale;  
But ah, my heart! I'd rather view  
Selma of the Vale!

In silent evening groves I'd greet  
The warbling nightingale;  
But, ah! thy voice is still more sweet,  
Selma of the Vale!

There must be a mistake in the title-page; our mellifluous Doctor cannot really belong to Dover! He must be a Munster melodist, by his courtly love for the sex, and the grand words in which he makes the same known.

*The Columbiad, a Poem, by A. T. Ritchie.*—This volume contains only the first Canto, about 4,000 lines, of a poem, having for its subject the incidents of a sea-voyage eastward from Bengal to South America:—and those of our readers who, after that plain statement on our parts, choose to refer to it, will, of course, do so on their own responsibility. Mr. Ritchie has some reason to complain of the proceedings of the poet Falconer; who, in his *Shipwreck*, has anticipated the plan and some of the details of that gentleman's poem. The pleasant terms, however, on which the latter is with himself, lead him to treat all others with forbearance; and his manner of stating the case between himself and Falconer, constitutes one of the most ingenious and candid forms of the ancient complaint against those who have "said our good things before us" which it has been our fortune to fall in with. Mr. Ritchie, it appears, read *'The Shipwreck'*, on board, at the commencement of the voyage which he has here undertaken to narrate; and observes, naturally—"the remarkable coincidence of our fate, and perhaps the facility of finding a plan already laid down, so easy of adoption, induced me to model the commencement of the first canto somewhat after it." Having laid aside his poem in an unfinished state, and taken it up for completion in after life, our author, it appears, "forgot how near he had adhered to the plan laid down by Falconer"; and, on looking into a copy of *'The Shipwreck'*, appears to have been both surprised and shocked at the unhandsome manner in which that sailor-poet had taken the wind out of his sails. Several passages, however, where the coincidence was "too bad," our author suppressed; but "others," he says, "giving a description of the ship, those on board, and the disasters we suffered, I allowed to remain, from the self-satisfying palliative, that as all ships have the same essential requisites in common, and gales of wind deal pretty much in the same way with vessels which they overtake on a sea shore, there was no more reason why I should not attempt to describe these circumstances poetically, than that actual occurrences should have been suppressed on the log-book, because log-books are kept on board of other vessels where their proceedings are likewise recorded." Under cover of a slight confusion in the logic, this, it must be admitted, is a triumphant argument in favour of plagiarism; and shows that, if our author chooses to be a copyist, at times, it is not because he cannot be very original when he pleases. Thus, following out his ratiocination, because all men have the same essential limbs and features, and inasmuch as the gales of the passions deal pretty much in the same way with the human vessels which they assail under identical conditions, there is no reason whatever why we should not describe some of the great and striking effects of these moral tempests merely because *Shakspeare* had previously noted down the same in his log-book in somewhat similar terms, and obliged us with a sight of it! But the author has other claims to originality than such as are derived from his plagiarisms. He has made a grand theoretic discovery; which is to reconcile, at once and for ever, the ap-

parent discrepancies between the Mosaic narrative of the Creation, and the evidence furnished by geological inquiry—without altering or limiting the literal characters of either. This new cosmogony of our author's is announced and expounded, with all the solemnity and circumstance of a most sublime *Ερμηνεία*; and cannot be appropriately introduced to our readers without the flourish of trumpets which Mr. Ritchie blows before it. Those who may feel disposed, in spite of all they have heard, to venture for the long dull voyage, in the good ship *Columbiad*, will find it on board as we did; and, in case they should take a fancy to appropriate it, they may, there, make further acquaintance with the arguments by which such appropriation is to be defended.

*Poems, by Mrs. Pratt, late H. A. Lethbridge.*—This volume contains so many painful and personal revelations which ought to have been sacred, that we hold silence respecting it to be charity.

*Purnassian Climbers; or Modern Helicon.*—A thing calling itself a satire—which even Satire would not touch. It has two good lines; and they are valuable rather for their meaning than their form:—

But (I) shall no more the pen attempt to wield,  
So make my parting bow, and—quit the field.

A promising couplet this.

*A Plea for Christian Peace and Unity, by Rev. R. Jenkins.*—The author promises to avoid the crowded ways of controversy, and to devote his little work "to the more general diffusion of that spirit of charity and forbearance which controversy unfortunately tends rather to impair than to invigorate." As far as we have observed, he has redeemed his promise. His cause is certainly a good one, and it is most desirable that in these days of religious excitement it should be steadily kept before the public mind.

*Dodd's Church History, Vol. V., by the Rev. M. A. Tierney.*—Consists almost entirely of a supplement to Dodd's account of the appointment of Dr. Bishop, and the disputes regarding the well known Dr. Worthington, and the Arch-priests Birkhead and Harrison. In our notice of Vol. IV. (No. 729) we adverted to the confusion in this work, respecting the catholic seminaries on the continent, resulting from Mr. Tierney having encumbered himself with Dodd. The want of a clear and continuous history is only made more apparent by the volume before us. The work, however, is important for the mass of private and official documents contained in the appendix.

*The Papal and Hierarchical System.*—It is a rare occurrence to meet one of the Society of Friends in the field of religious controversy; we do not regret their abstinence, and wish that this volume had not formed an exception to the general rule.

*A Voice from the Holy Land.*—This is an attempt to found something like a romance on the Gospel History! The folly of the plan is obvious, and, we may add, the work is feebly executed.

*Sketches of the Reformers of the Sixteenth Century, by E. Tagart.*—These sketches are too slight and superficial to merit critical examination.

*A Manual of Devotions for the Holy Communion.*—This professedly Anglican manual would, we are sure, pass current and without comment at Rome.

*A Historico-Geographical Account of Palestine, by D. J. F. Röhr, translated by the Rev. D. Esdaile.*—A volume of that useful series, called the Biblical Cabinet, not unworthy of its predecessors. It is free from most of the faults of German religious writers, and contains much valuable information. In the same volume we have "Researches in Palestine, compiled by Dr. Robinson, from various communications received at various times from the Rev. E. Smith and the Rev. J. Wolcott."

*The Law of Distress for Rent on Property not the Tenant's.*—This is the report of a case tried in the Summer Assizes, 1840, as to whether some casks, the property of a brewer, were liable to be distrained on the premises of a publican, to whom they had been delivered in the way of trade. Verdict was given for the brewer, the plaintiff; but a rule against the verdict was applied for, and obtained. The work before us contains an argument in support of the original verdict. The question opens a wide field for discussion; for though the case is special, the principle of exemption, if established, must include all property found on the premises and lent in the way of trade; we leave it, therefore, to the consideration of the lawyers and the legislature.

*Facts in Chemistry for Schools, by W. Lover.*—A useful collection explained in plain language, and apparently well explained.

*Ethnographic Map of Europe, by Dr. Kombst.*—The author's principles of Ethnography are not supported by much proof,—in fact, the space allowed is wholly insufficient for discussion. We doubt the utility of such bald charts. The subject demands investigation and criticism—and a chart seems to assume admitted facts, where, after the most diligent research, much remains conjectural and uncertain.

*The Modern Child's Atlas.*—A Celestial Atlas, by J. Middleton.—The first of these Atlases seems to be a useful little work.—Mr. Middleton gives maps of the constellations with the figures filled in on one page, and blank maps of the stars on the other. Both works are neatly executed.

*Philosophical Diagrams, by F. T. Minasi, Parts I. and II. Mechanics.*—These diagrams are designed for the use of lecturers, and philosophical classes and schools. The question of their merit must be left, therefore, to those who require such diagrams, and who are quite able to decide how far they will answer their purpose. It is enough for us to announce the publication.

*Historical Sketch of the Progress of British Pharmacy, by Jacob Bell.*—This is strictly an historical sketch, not of the progress of art, but of the institutions connected with the profession. It has a close reference to the contests now going forward respecting medical reform, and will be interesting chiefly to those who are engaged on that much mooted question.

*The Penny Cyclopædia.*—This work is now drawing fast towards a close. The 26th volume includes from *Ungulata* to *Wales*.

*Encyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology, Part XXIV., by R. T. Todd.*—*Dictionary of Practical Medicine, Part VIII., by James Copeland.*—We have received these issues, the former containing highly interesting papers on the structure and functions of muscles, and on the anatomy of the Myriapoda; the other extending alphabetically from "Kidneys" to "Lungs," and consequently embracing the diseases of the biliary and respiratory organs.

*List of New Books.*—Eton Greek Grammar, translated into English, by Rev. H. J. Taylor, new edit. 12mo. 4s. cl.—The Cambrian Mirror, or North Wales Tourist, by F. Parry, with plates and map, 18mo. 3s. cl.—The Art of Questioning and Answering in French, by A. C. G. Jobert, 12mo. 4s. cl.—Das Kalte Herz (the Cold Heart), by W. Hauff, with explanation and idiomatic peculiarities, &c., by H. Apel, 18mo. 3s. cl.—Allen's New Greek Delectus, 2nd edit. 12mo. 4s. cl.—The Teacher's Companion, designed to exhibit the principles of Sunday School instruction, &c., by R. N. Collins, 12mo. 4s. cl.—Davy's (Bishop) Plain and Short History of England, new edit. 12mo. 2s. 6d. hf-bd.—Sims's Sacred Geography, 2nd edit. 6s. 8vo. 5s. cl.—The Art of Land Surveying, by John Quested, 12mo. 3s. cl.—Experimental Education, by the Author of *A Spenser's Gift*, 12mo. 7s. cl.—Pocket Guide to Commercial Book-keeping, by single and Double Entry, by R. Wallace M.A. 32mo. 1s. 6d. roan.—Tetrinximus Antiquorum, Part I., 'On the Raw Materials used for Weaving,' by James Yates, 8vo. 24s. cl.—Ceylon and its Capabilities, by J. W. Bennett, Esq., 1 vol. royal 4to. 3l. 3s. cl.—Implement of Agriculture, by J. Allen Ramsome, royal 8vo. 8s. cl.—Sandford's (Rev. G. B.) Doctrine of Regeneration considered, 12mo. 4s. cl.—Watson's Lent Lectures, The Prayer Book a Safe Guide, &c. 8vo. 4s. 6d. cl.—Rade's Christian Meditations, or the Believer's Companion in Solitude, 2nd edit. 12mo. 7s. cl.—Baskets of Fragments, being Notes of Sermons, by Rev. T. Jones, 5th edit. 12mo. 6s. 6d. cl.—Pastoral Recollections, by Rev. J. A. Wallace, 16mo. 3s. cl.—Trower's (Rev. W. J.) Sermons on the Book of Exodus, 8vo. 9s. 6d. bds.—Truth without Prejudice, 2nd edit. 6s. 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.—Berkeley's (Bishop) Works, new edit. by Rev. G. N. Wright, 2 vols. 8vo. 16s. cl.—Thoughts on Moral and Spiritual Culture, by R. C. Waterston, 2nd edit. 12mo. 4s. 6d. cl.—Adolphus's History of England, during the Reign of George III., Vol. VI., 8vo. 14s. cl.—Davies's Records of the City of York, during the 15th century, 8vo. 12s. cl.—Wood's Manual of Perspective, 2nd edit. royal 8vo. 4s. 6d. cl.—The Insect World, with plates, 6s. 8vo. 3s. cl.—Lee's Botanical Looker-Out, crown 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.—Lee's Plants of Malvern Hills, 12mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—Stratford, a Tragedy, by John Sterling, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—Mortimer's (Mrs.) The English Mother, or Early Lessons on the Church of England, 3rd edit. 18mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—The Philosophy of Training, by A. R. Craig, 6s. 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.—The Ornaments Discovered, a Story, new edit. 18mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—The Busy-Body, a Novel, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. cl.—The Smuggler, a Chronicle of the Coast Guard, by Lieut. F. Hinginson, Vol. I., 8vo. 7s. cl.—Life in the Ranks, by Sergeant Major Taylor, 1 vol. post 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.—The Farmer's Daughter, by Mrs. Cameron, 6s. 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.—Wit Bought, or the Adventures of Robert Merry, by Peter Parley, 18mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—Little Lessons for Little Learners, by Mrs. Barwell, 5th edit. square, 3s. 6d. cl.—Lillian Arundel, a Story for Children, 1s. 6d. sq.—Elements of Knowledge for Children, by C.M.A., square, 3s. 6d. cl.—Peter Parley's Tales about Animals, new edit. square 16mo. 7s. 6d. cl.—A Selection of Knitting, Netting, and Crochet Work, by Miss Watiss, square, 1s. sqd.

## TREES.

LIKE the latest left of the battle-spears,  
In their ancient strength they stand;  
And they tell us still of the sylvan years  
When the forests filled the land;  
Ere ever a hunter tracked the wood,  
Or mariner plough'd the seas,  
But the isles were green in the solitude  
Of their old primeval Trees.

They have survived the Druid's faith,  
And the Roman eagle's fall,  
And the thrilling blast of the bugle's breath  
From the Norman's knightly hall;  
But the sun shines bright, and the showers descend,  
And the wild bird's home is made,  
Where the ancient giants still extend  
The green of their summer shade.

We have seen our early winters hang  
Their pearls on each leafless bough,  
And greeted the buds of the waking Spring  
With a joy we know not now;  
For Life hath its winters cold and hoar,  
But their frosts can form no gem;  
And the Spring may breathe on our hearts no more,  
But it still returns to them.

They are waving o'er our hamlet roofs,  
They are bending o'er our dead,  
And the odours breathed from his native groves,  
On the exile's heart they shed;  
Like him who gazed on his country's palm,  
By the palace-circled Seine,  
Till the Pagod rose in the wanderer's dream,  
And the Ganges rolled again.

How sweet in our childhood's ear they spoke,  
For we knew their voices well,  
When far in our western hills they woke,  
Of the coming Spring to tell;  
But now they send us a sadder sound,  
On the winds of Autumn eves,  
For it murmurs of wisdom more profound,  
But it tells of withered leaves.

O, such were the Dryad tones that rose  
In the Grecian woods of old,  
And the voice from the Indian wilderness,  
That the conqueror's fate foretold;  
For many a minstrel's dream had birth  
In the sounds of leaf and breeze,  
And the early oracles of earth  
Were the old complaining Trees!

FRANCES BROWN.

DAYS' EXCURSIONS OUT OF LONDON.  
*Malmesbury Abbey.*

THANKS to the marvellous facilities afforded by railroads in the present day, there is no reason why any of the treasures of antiquity long concealed in distance and obscurity, should remain covered with a veil; and the traveller who imagines it necessary to cross the channel in order to view old towns and towers, will discover that in the course of a few hours he may find places as singular as Normandy itself can present to him. The owl and bat are fast disappearing; their retreats are invaded, their ruins are explored, and sketched, and made known, and become a sight; and oblivion is, or will be soon, unknown.

Few persons, a short time since, at least before the opening of the Great Western, would have ever thought of going in search of the fine old Abbey of Malmesbury, situate in that stony, dreary-looking town, which may have been occasionally passed through by a small body of travellers, on their way to Bristol, but which, being out of the great road and removed from commerce or gaiety, is as much forgotten and unasked for, as if one of the most majestic and beautiful ruins in England were not to be found there; as if it had never been a place of importance in our history, the favourite city of King Athelstan, who lies there in effigy, and where he defeated those daring invaders the Danes; as if it had never yielded pin-money to the beautiful wife of Edward IV., though in fact she derived no less a sum than 20*l.* a year from the monastery, which the rich monks were well able to pay; as if bluff King Hal and his merry foresters had never feasted there with the great clothier, or the melancholy Charles ridden into the

town as a place of refuge, seated behind Prince Rupert; or his merry son had not spent some gay hours within its walls: yet all these things happened in Malmesbury, and many are the recollections attached to the spot.

If the curious traveller be set down by the train at Chippenham, and if he be a good walker, as all explorers ought to be, he can, in little more than a couple of hours, reach the antique borough in question. The best approach, however, is on the side of Tetbury, as from that road he at once obtains a view of the fine buildings and single majestic arch of the Abbey, rising on the brow of the grassy hill on which it stands.

The town is on a rising ground, bathed at its foot by two streams, which, uniting, form the silver little river called by the classical name of Avon. At the entrance from Chippenham, the waters turn several mills, and, foaming over the impediments in their way, as they pass the bridge, murmur their welcome as they did in the days when the saintly Abbot Aldhelm was accustomed to seat himself on that spot, and there, harp in hand, await the approach of passengers to sing lays so light and gay that they drew round him a crowd of eager listeners. It was then that, when he found their attention fully awakened, and himself looked upon with an eye of favour, he would suddenly change his theme, and lead their minds to subjects of higher importance.

St. Aldhelm was a great light in the dark age of the seventh century; he was of royal birth, but devoted himself to the Church, and became a distinguished member of the already established brotherhood, whose learning had given a high name to the Abbey of Malmesbury. He was a proficient in languages, a poet and musician, and he hesitated not to assume the popular character of a Troubadour, in order to entice stray sheep into his fold. He was, although attractive in his person and manners, severe to himself, mortifying his body by rigorous fasts and penances; and a fountain in the valley of the convent, called Holy Well, is still pointed out as the place where, in the most inclement season, the future saint would plunge himself into the chilling waters, and remain immersed to the shoulders, pouring forth his soul in prayer, and lamenting his sins. When he became Abbot of Sherbourne, near Malmesbury, and his power had increased with his will to do good, he became a great benefactor to the order. His learning was known throughout Europe; his advice and instruction were sought: he visited Rome, and admonished the Pope himself; he brought back relics and altars, and enriched and beautified his holy retreat, and the Abbey, which he had illustrated by his acquirements. Many of his writings are extant; he appears to have been the first Englishman who introduced Latin poetry to his countrymen; he translated part of the Bible, and laboured hard to introduce civilization and Christian virtues into a benighted region of ignorance. Although apparently above the superstitions of the age in which he lived, for which reason his works have been censured by the literary inquisitors of Rome, yet he could not escape the injudicious fame bestowed on him by "those Babylonish masons, the lying monks," as Fuller calls them, who recount numerous miracles as having happened to him in his lifetime; amongst others, a *cheshire*, or cassolet, used to be shown in the treasure-house of Malmesbury, which was said to have been hung by him on a sunbeam, which entered the glass window, on a day when mass being ended, he found no one to take the robe from him. Besides this relic were preserved his psalter and the great bell of the steeple, called St. Aldhelm's bell, on which was the following inscription, in Latin—

In Heaven's blest mansions he ne'er sets his feet,  
Who steals this bell from Aldhelm's sacred seat.

Aldhelm was buried at Malmesbury, with singular pomp, but, alas! his tomb is no longer to be found.

After passing the bridge of the Troubadour Saint, a building is before you, one dedicated to St. John of Jerusalem, and still preserving some arches of the antique construction: the black habit marked with a white cross, has given place to a simpler costume, though the house is still dedicated, as at that period, to charitable purposes. On each side of the steep and somewhat rugged street, which you now mount, are habitations, of architecture more solid than graceful, whose low portals and long dark passages, leading

through the houses and opening to the country behind, have a mysterious and strange effect. A gloom, almost monastic, seems to reign in the apparently deserted street, at the further extremity of which is the beautiful market cross, the boast of Malmesbury.

This cross is a very fine specimen of the style: it is of octangular form, and much ornamented with sculpture. On a turret in the centre, supported by eight flying buttresses, are a crucifix and several statues. This piece of antiquity is kept up with care, and is still used for its original purpose, as a shelter to the market people.

Passing through the low arch of the belfry tower, of what was once St. Paul's Church, the churchyard is entered, and there suddenly bursts upon the view the venerable remains of the once famous abbey, which tradition says occupied a space of forty-five acres. It is used as the parish church, and is in a high state of preservation. That part which now exists, may be considered as about one-fourth of the original edifice. An enormous arch is still entire, and rises in great majesty at the extremity of the building, another is partially destroyed, and is clothed with a rich drapery of ivy. Nothing can be grander or more imposing than the appearance of this splendid arch, which is about fifty-six feet high and twenty-one wide: it is one of the four which supported the transept and the lofty spire, long since fallen, which was said to be seven yards higher than that of Salisbury. It is a remarkable object, and as it stands detached from the main building, it looks like a gigantic phantom of former days, placed there as a sentinel to watch the fate of the rest of the temple.

The abbot's house, now used as a modern dwelling, is close by; and curious and mysterious are the vaults and passages beneath it, which tradition, as usual, connects with those of a far distant convent on the other side of the abbey moat.

Next to this glorious arch, the most interesting part of the exterior is the singularly beautiful Saxon porch, of rare and remarkable workmanship, measuring from the centre of its front to an inner porch eleven feet; its width is twenty, and height about eighteen. The elaborate sculpture of this magnificent erection is unrivalled for boldness of execution and design. The inner porch leading from this is equally grand, it is seventeen feet long, twelve wide, and sixteen high, encrusted with figures in niches, apostles, angels, and foliage of extraordinary richness.

The church, as it stands, consists only of a part of the nave and aisles; ornamented pinnacles spring from flying buttresses throughout its length of 110 feet; its parapet is beautifully carved, and the whole effect is peculiarly venerable and fine. Within, a range of stupendous, massive, round columns, with plain capitals, separate the nave from the aisles. These support three rows of arches, the lowest and highest somewhat pointed, and the central circular.

A curious little stone structure, which has puzzled antiquaries, projects from the upper wall in the centre. Tradition names it the prison where the offending monks did penance by being exposed to the gaze of the multitude, but it was probably a place appropriated to the abbot's household from whence to view processions, as it is placed too high to have been a pulpit.

The carving of heads and foliage round the arches, some of the cornices, &c. are extremely rich and admirable, but the great attraction is a tomb on which lies a figure in royal robes, with a lion at the feet, said to be the effigy of King Athelstan himself. It is a fine statue, and in tolerable preservation, though it appears to have suffered considerably by time and violence. This was not its original position, and all but the slab of the tomb on which it lies is gone.

All traces of the castle, once attached to this celebrated monastery, have disappeared; it probably stood on the spot where a range of pretty houses, with gardens, called the Abbey Row, exists, looking over what must once have been the moat, to a dell, called Burviale, where in days of old the spires of a nunnery gleamed amongst the trees.

The *hospitium* of the Abbey may be traced in the inn called the "White Lion," which, it appears, was formerly the Banqueting House, where Stumpe, the great clothier of Malmesbury, when its trade was flourishing, entertained Henry VIII., under the following circumstances:—The King, with a large party

of gentlemen and followers, after a hard day's hunting in the neighbouring forest of Bradon, rode into Malmesbury, to seek for what they could find at the hospitable abode of the burly clothier. There was a large company, and, to judge by their appearance, a small supply of provisions would scarcely satisfy them. However, the worthy Stumpe was not to be disconcerted; he gave his unexpected guests a hearty welcome, and ordering his train of workmen to abstain from eating till night, he had the food which had been prepared for them served up before his Majesty and his followers. This supplied them with a plentiful, though not a dainty meal, and they went away well pleased with their entertainment.

England, at the present day, does not supply many traditions, but at Malmesbury a superstition still obtains amongst the peasantry, which is probably a relic of some antique belief. A spirit is said to be occasionally seen in moonlight nights flitting across the path of the belated; it usually comes in the form of a white rabbit, and, while you look upon it, vanishes from sight. Woe to the maiden who passes Daniel's Well at night; the holy abbot who gave his name to the spring no longer protects heretic; woe to the hind who returns late across "the Worthies," as the fields are called beyond the Abbey; the White monks are no longer there to say a prayer against the evil spirit, for their Carthusian convent is no more. The shadowy animal bodes no good, and sickness and ill-fortune follow in its train. It is singular that one of the conspicuous ornaments on the medallion mouldings in the church is the figure of a rabbit, but what it may indicate, or how the superstition originated, does not seem easy to discover.

Amongst many learned men which Malmesbury has produced, one of the most remarkable is the celebrated historian William Somerset, usually called by the name of his native town. He was librarian to the monastery, and his worth and erudition are fully acknowledged; he says of himself: "I am not anxious about the praise or censure of my contemporaries, but I hope that when partiality and malevolence are no more, I shall receive from posterity the character of an industrious, though not an elegant historian." Thomas Hobbes, the philosopher, is another of her sons of whom Malmesbury may boast: his own opinion of his abilities was rather in contrast to that of the modest chronicler, his townsman.

After having passed "some hours of a summer's day" amongst the melancholy and reverend remains of the fine abbey, it would be well if the traveller bent his course in the direction of a more amusing object, and followed the deep hollow road, bordered by the tottering ruins of the ancient wall, only kept from toppling down by the strong arms of the luxuriant ivy which embrace them; he will then find himself in a cheerful open spot, and enter the high road, which will conduct him to Charlton Park, the great lion of the neighbourhood, and one well worthy a visit for its pictorial treasures. The house stands in a level park, with but little beauty of scenery near; there is, however, a calm tranquillity about the spot which has its charm, and would seem to indicate that there once stood a mansion dedicated to holy musings, where no profane foot might fright the studious monks from their hallowed haunt. The place belongs to the Earl of Suffolk, who generally resides there with his large family. It was built by Inigo Jones, and is a good specimen of his powers. The principal front is grand, and the design of the whole is fine; but, unfortunately, it has never been completed. If it ever become so, the hall of entrance and the rest of the unfinished parts, will make it as handsome a mansion as can well be met with. The library is a peculiarly well-built room, of excellent form and construction, as a place appropriated to study and retirement: the outer busy world seems here shut out; a solemn light is thrown from above, and all around is quiet and seclusion. The fine suite of drawing-rooms is filled with pictures, some of them the rarest specimens of the greatest masters: particularly a Carracci, a Domenichino, and a Leonardo da Vinci, no other than the famous Madonna della Rocca itself! Here are some fine Guidos, Claudes, and Albanos, and in the whole collection, which is very extensive, not a picture but is good of its kind. But the most interesting and remarkable part of the house is a magnificent gallery, which runs along one front of the building to its fullest extent, from whose

bold expansive oriel windows the park and gardens have a charming effect. The roof of this gorgeous chamber is fretted with pendant ornaments beautifully carved: every article of furniture within it is in the most perfect taste, according with the style of the architecture. Ebony and oak chairs and tables and cabinets of superior workmanship are placed along the sides, but the chief attraction is the two ranges of full length Howards, which in all the glory of unrivalled portraiture, and exhibiting marvels of Art from Holbein to Lely, keep their proud station on the walls. The minute details of costume which some of these display are very curious, and the exquisite state of preservation in which they appear makes the collection perhaps one of the most valuable, in an historical point of view, in the kingdom. The immense length of this splendid gallery, filled from end to end with majestic figures, all fresh as if speaking and breathing—

"in their habits, as they lived," has a magnificent effect, and the sun streaming through it, the trees waving through the large windows, the gay groups which generally occupy it, (for it is used as a general room, and is one of the most agreeable in the house,) altogether give it features, peculiar to itself, of great attraction.

Malmesbury is worth visiting were it only for the sake of Charlton, and Charlton were it only for its vicinity to the magnificent ruined abbey, the boast of Wiltshire.

#### THE DECORATIONS AT THE TRAVELLERS CLUB.

EXTENSIVE decorations, costing, it is said, some thousands of pounds, have recently been completed at this very happy adaptation of the Bufalini Palace. It is a satisfactory sign for the progress of Art to find a growing attention paid to architectural decorations, and, in so far as those lately executed at the Travellers Club are likely to promote that desirable result, we are disposed to welcome them; but, in proportion to their probable influence, it is the more necessary to protest against that absence of all principles, which is manifest throughout—on floors, on walls, on ceilings, in passages, and in rooms. Tasteless and chilling as may be the universal white paint of Queen Anne's days—of which the Library at Blenheim affords a cool specimen—monotonous and depressing as are the drab and slate colours patronized by George the Fourth, which abound in Windsor Castle, and are, unhappily, conspicuous in Buckingham House, (the pictures in the Long Gallery are hung against a drab-coloured wall,)—it may be a question whether they are not preferable—exciting, as they do, no interest whatever—to bright colouring so misemployed that the eye cannot turn without detecting some false principle of taste.

The greatest offences in the decorations of the Travellers Club arise from the employment of affectations and unrealities, which abound everywhere—sham granite walls, sham marbled columns and dados, sham bronze doors, sham bas-reliefs. As soon as you have passed the hall of entrance into the corridor, the fictions begin, and you traverse a passage of universal granites—pink, grey, green, &c. Besides being an affectation itself, this is the affectation of an unfit thing. Suppose the thing for an instant to be all real—would a granite passage be right in such a place? We are not entering an Egyptian temple, or the basement of a castle, but the light, cheerful passage of a sort of democratic modern palace, free from all fear of outward violence, and with a portal no more capable of resisting attack than polished mahogany and plate glass. Granite surely is not a material to be used here. But if you will use the hardest of stones for such a purpose, then ought not the forms in which you employ it to be somewhat analogous to the material itself? Here you have mock granite adapting itself to Italian mouldings—so light and elegant that you would select the softest colite out of which to chisel them. The ceiling, too, is painted to affect granite. Do not all analogies drawn from Nature, as well as all good architectural precedents, tell us that the upper part of a building should be in all respects of material, form, and colour, lighter than the lower part? Let us forget this affectation of a thing out of place, and look at this passage simply for its colouring, which indeed begets the first general impression. Banish from recollection that the colouring is grained, and

look at it as a surface of pink and grey—which is its aspect to most eyes. It may be a right principle to keep the passages and halls duly subordinate to the rooms, in respect of their decorative characteristics, but surely a passage that faces the north needs to be a little warmer and more cheerful in colouring than one which looks south. Yet here, in a due north aspect, we have shades of cool colours. The materials employed in the building of this hall, and its ornamental parts, are chiefly wood and plaster, made to be coloured. Would not correct taste, then, simply colour them, producing the best effects out of the unlimited range of colours?

The wainscot staircase of the club remains substantially as it was before these recent decorations. Being chiefly of oak, its very reality protected it from change. The ceiling here has been richly painted in various bright colours, displayed in arabesque forms and panels, generally resembling those we also find in the drawing-room—for which very reason we think that these decorations cannot be altogether consistent—certainly they do not accord with the oak stairs and banisters. The walls here, as in the upper corridor, have been divided into panels by arabesque borders and lines. The effect is light and tasteful; but the carpet, which is a mass of unbroken crimson, is much too full-toned and positive to accord well with the delicate pale hues of the walls. The figures in the arabesque painting do not rise beyond second-rate decorative art, and the human figures which are sometimes introduced, are by no means well drawn or well proportioned. The highest academical excellence in drawing ought not perhaps to be demanded under such circumstances, but in this case, as it was thought necessary to send out of England for a decorative painter, we might fairly have anticipated something better than what we could have produced ourselves. In the present case, the work—both in design and execution—is certainly not beyond the mark of many of the London decorative painters. If our school of design has produced any fruits at all, it must by this time have educated a score of pupils quite up to the standard of these decorations.

Through a mock bronze door—of which a few words presently—we enter the drawing-rooms. What is the first general impression, without examining the details? The tone of the colouring is neither warm nor cold—though parts are of both characters, and there is no lack of many varieties of colour. The aspect of the room is a north one, and being such, the prevailing arrangement of colour should be warm. Modify it as you please to suit the particular character of the apartment—but do not forget that the room receives hardly a ray of direct sunshine throughout the year. In these drawing-rooms the greater part of the surface of the walls is of a pale, cool-looking colour, something between a lemon and cream colour, arranged in panels, which are bordered by strong and rather dark contrasts. The lower part of the walls, the dado, and its mouldings, are coloured imitations of marbles, in which a blueish green predominates. Then the doors and window shutters are coloured dark green, to imitate bronze—a violent contrast to the walls—and made the more positive by the deep crimsoned draperies of the curtains. The ceiling is richly coloured and gilt, whilst the walls are comparatively plain. The character of both ought surely to be more consonant—or, if there were any difference, ought not the more attractive features to be on the walls, where they are most easily seen? Look from the ceiling to the carpet, and in the latter there is the same absence of concordance and propriety. It has no leading key-note of colour—so to speak—but is a sort of helter-skelter of many colours. These rooms cannot be said to have any general effect, or any one strong point to which all others are subordinate. There is nothing positive—nothing consistent—one part is warm, another cold. Richness in the ceilings, poverty on the walls; deep-toned colours brought into violent contrasts with others of a very low tone. As for harmony and due subordination of parts one with another, they cannot be met with. The whole gives an impression as if it had been the work of a committee, where there had been a compromise to suit every one's taste, and each member had undertaken the independent arrangement of different parts—one superintending the floor, another the ceiling, a third the walls, a fourth the

doors and shutters, a fifth the draperies, and so on. Having looked at the rooms thus generally, we proceed to glance at some of the details, which, in their want of principle, deserve severer criticism.

The ornaments are inconsistent with each other. Some are early Grecian, some Pompeian, some of the age of Louis Quatorze! as in the cornices of the window curtains. There is no objection perhaps to a combination of different styles,—but it can only be realized successfully by a principle which, depriving each of its distinctive and independent character, succeeds in making all integral and harmonious parts of a novel creation. In architectural forms Palladio and Wren succeeded in accomplishing this, when they took those of ancient Rome and adapted them to the buildings of modern Europe. But the decorations at the Travellers Club are very wide of the application of such a principle. Each different part—said cornices especially—looks like an independent impertinence, and to have been brought together by chance or caprice. It has been noticed that the doors and window-shutters are painted in imitation of bronze, of a dark bluish bottle-green hue. The same question suggests itself here as below in the granite corridor. What want could there be even for real bronze under such circumstances? The doors are subjected to no violence; not even exposed to corrosion in the open air. At best, they are unsightly mockeries. On the panels of the doors are painted imitations of bas-relief metal work. Imitations are tolerable in proportion to their successful approximation to realities. When it was decided so to ornament these panels, the use of real metal, iron, if bronze was too costly, would not have been an impossibility: A few shillings' worth of Mr. Bielefeld's *papier maché* ornaments would at least have given an actually raised surface, and insured natural shadows whenever the door was opened. Now under fixed painted shadows, every time the door is opened a positive untruth is told in the face of the light. What can be said of the drawing-room carpet?—a thing in which the cost of pattern is hardly a consideration: certainly not to such a Club as this. It is just the carpet you would chance to find adorning the drawing-room of a flourishing cheesemonger in Aldgate or the Minorities: flowers of every hue displayed in shaded golden scrolls. It belongs to no recognized style, ancient or modern; even that lowest of styles, the Louis Quatorze, would not own it. Is it not a mistake to attempt any imitations which cannot succeed? If we want the representations of flowers, let them be executed by means which insure something like a correct representation. Employ colours and brushes in the production of pictures of them if you will, but surely not worsted threads. The Greeks took the beautiful forms of nature and used them not as affectations to recall feebly the remembrance of the originals, but adapted them in new methods to new purposes,—which suggested new views of their intrinsic beauty. Even the artists of the middle ages exercised a better taste than ourselves. A bunch of flowers or group of animals worked in worsted, with its angular shapes affecting to imitate the flowing lines of Nature's original, with its crude colouring and hard-marked blotches meant for brilliant hues and soft graduated shadows, merely reminds you how signally it is unlike what it has copied. How different is the effect produced by the pattern of the Grecian honeysuckle or the acanthus leaf on the Corinthian capital! We look on both as works intrinsically beautiful in themselves, as new creations and not as imitations. The Arabs have taught us how we may have a beautiful arrangement of colours almost independent of pattern. But we do not now intend to write an essay on carpets; and we can only dispatch that of the Travellers drawing-room by saying that it has both pattern and abundance of colours—but combined on such false principles that the meanest of Grecian ornaments or Arab combinations of colours rise very far above it.

We have thought it worth while to enter somewhat at length into this matter, because the members of the Travellers Club belong to a class who will probably exercise some influence in those decorations of our national buildings which seem to be likely to be realized at no distant day. Should the parties who are responsible for the taste of the decorations in this Club, have any voice in directing those of the Palace of Westminster, we hope our remarks may induce them to reflect that there are principles in

such matters, which cannot be neglected. If it be true that some thousands of pounds have been spent on these works, we do not scruple to say that a more satisfactory result might have been produced at a much less cost, had a more correct knowledge of the principles of decoration been applied.

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

ABOUT two years ago we cursorily mentioned the sale at Vauxhall Gardens of "half a dozen" Hogarths, which brought prices more proportioned to their ruinous state than real merits. Certain of them have since been restored, carefully and conscientiously, by Mr. Gwennap, of Titchborne Street, and the result is, that from averaging between four and five pounds per head, they now aspire together to double as many hundreds! Their present possessor, Mr. Parkes, of Westminster, purchased them, we are informed, for the sums and under the denominations following: 'A Moonlight,' 100*l.*; 'The Bird's Nest,' 200*l.*; 'The Bonfire,' 100*l.*; 'The Dyer,' 100*l.* Other names, or rather misnomers, have been given them; but the said 'Bonfire' and 'Dyer' turn out to be nothing else than Hogarth's first-painted pictures called 'Night' and 'Evening,' for the famous series entitled 'Four Times of the Day.' Another and later series was painted, of which Sir William Heathcote obtained the two pictures so designated. These first thoughts, or finished sketches, are rough rude things, dashed off, we should say, at once without any groundwork, yet pregnant with the rich humour and genial satire distinguishing the prints. It is known, that Hogarth presented Jonathan Tyers, the proprietor of Vauxhall, some such gifts, as suitable to embellish his wainscot bowers and bacchanalian alcoves, nor could any decorations be more appropriate; they were besides, perhaps, of less value to the artist after his prints and second series had been founded upon them. When about two years married he took a summer residence at Lambeth Terrace, where Mr. Cunningham says, "he drew 'The Four Parts of the Day,' which Hayman copied; the two scenes of Evening and Night, with portraits of Henry the Eighth and Anna Boleyn." This passage, however, apparently needs correction, the "portraits" having been a historical piece, and the scenes, distinguished from 'The Four Parts of the Day,' making, in fact, two of them. On 'the Night' his name occurs, and we think also a date, MDCCXXX, may be detected. Both it and 'Evening' are low oblongs, while the prints are tall uprights, and exhibit various alterations, new traits, or abler development of character, fuller backgrounds, denser and better general composition. Not a glimpse of Hogarth's genius is afforded by the 'Moonlight'; nothing about it is like him, though a good deal unlike, for example, the group of dancers who betray an Italian *grazia* at once beyond and beneath him. But *vice versa*, 'The Bird's Nest,' is manifestly Hogarthian, though quite out of his usual style both as to subject and execution. With less piquancy than a Watteau, and powerful effect than a Gainsborough, it has not the mannerism of either; its luxuriant woodland beauties, enhanced by such lustrous freshness of tint, will surprise amateurs who take Hogarth for a mere town painter—no approach to caricature or burlesque in the figures, yet a strength of expression and spirit of rustic merriment most opposed to the pastoral in Syria. Ireland etched a Poussinesque scene, which he calls the only landscape Hogarth ever painted: here we have a pendant to it, rather perhaps a superior. His name is subscribed, superfluously, when his mind appears so evident all over the canvas. These four productions are of large size—much larger than 'Marriage à la Mode,' the most familiar standard. It would seem that for three among them—'Moonlight' (if this be his), 'The Bonfire,' and 'The Bird's Nest,'—besides three others, 'The Maypole,' 'Henry the Eighth,' and 'Angling,' (*qu.*, his frontispiece to 'Kirby's Perspective'?) Mr. Tyers gave him a bequeathable Gold Ticket, which admitted the possessor and six friends. It is to be seen at the same place, and ought never to be separated from the paintings: price demanded, 50*l.* On the face two female figures, one having a helmet and shield, join hands; round them *VIRTUS VOLUPTAS, BELOW FELICES UNA*. On the reverse—HOGARTH IN PERPETUUM BENEFICII MEMORIAM. The word "beneficii" here, should it refer (as is probable) to these pictures, determines that they

were of some consideration. Along with them are several Hogarthian portraits: Dr. Pellet, M.D., four of the Hoadley family, an unknown gentleman, and one inscribed 'Miss Peggy Woffington.' This last has no resemblance to Colonel Wyndham's 'Charming Peggy,' now at the British Institution, nor much either to Hogarth's general portrait manner. Yet he sometimes adopted its solid style, and always a good deal of its tone and garniture: price 150 guineas. We much prefer Mrs. Bishop Hoadley, who has all Hogarth's individualizing spirit about her expression, and all his free, light, frill-work pencilling about her drapery. A 'Judgment of Paris' is also attributed to Hogarth—on what grounds we know not other than its correspondence in style with 'The Bird's Nest,' and its humour, quite akin to his satirical genius: the goddesses are depicted, showing off their *Louis Quinze* dresses and graces like three *Précieuses Ridicules*, while Paris and Mercury are clad like French clodpoles: it looks a kind of double satire, against the Historic School and the Watteau taste: 150 guineas demanded. Idolators of Hogarth (as we own ourselves to be,) will find another small work—'The Student'—worth notice, though it has suffered irremediable disfigurement: an ambitious tyro is exhibited painting from a female bust, which seems to sneer at his efforts, and a bubble which drops from his face, neglected for the model's, may perhaps typify the emptiness of his hopes, and slightness of his pretensions. Further to augment this chance-medley collection of Hogarth's, Sir William de Bath has contributed, on loan, one that outweighs them all—Scene III. of the *Harlot's Progress*. It claims to be the single original saved when the other five perished in the Fonthill conflagration, 1755; but it has a value quite unventitious, falling little short of the painter's works most famed for careful workmanship and agreeable colour. Portions, such as Justice Gonson and his alguazils, are weak; on the other hand, unfortunate Mary Hackabout's head and bust display a beauty of treatment that might become Dian's own portrait. We could enlarge, but must have done. Finally, then, there was still another specimen to attract us, though it would repel less enthusiastic Hogarthians—'The Debauchee,' a very curious but coarse production, representing the disagreeable results of intemperance with terrible faithfulness, and force enough to make Drunken Barnaby himself a teetotaler for life.

The premium of 300*l.*, awarded to Mr. Armitage for his Cartoon, representing "Caesar's Invasion of Britain," was, as our readers are aware, withheld in consequence of the drawing having been executed in Paris; and, agreeably to the conditions originally laid down by the Commissioners, Mr. Armitage was required to execute another drawing, the subject 'An Ancient Briton defending his wounded Son from the attack of a Roman Soldier.' This he has done to the entire satisfaction of the Commissioners, who have now declared that he is entitled to receive the premium. Respecting the Cartoons themselves, the appetite seems to grow by what it feeds on; more persons than ever have visited the Exhibition this week; and on Saturday last, on which day payment is received, nearly 3,000 were admitted. The Commissioners have also issued a public invitation to artists, in various departments, to send in specimens of works that may aid in the decoration of the Houses of Parliament—statues in bronze and marble of British Sovereigns and other illustrious personages—stained glass windows, with figures or heraldic devices relating to the Royal Families of England—carved wood, consisting of designs for doors and panels—specimens of fresco painting, and of paintings executed in any other method free from a shining surface—arabesque paintings, and heraldic decorations in gold and colour, the designs to be executed in water colour, tempera, oil, or encaustic—ornamental metal work for screens, railings, gates, and ornamental pavements. The whole to be delivered by the first week in March next year.

A Society has been projected, to be called "The Institute of the Fine Arts," for the purpose, as stated in the address, of "uniting, by intellectual and social means, the interests of artists, and attempting to establish a free and liberal intercourse between the patrons, the lovers of art, and its professors." More than one meeting has already taken place, and Mr. Wyse, who presided, argued in favour of artistic

associations, from what he had seen in his travels through Germany and France, where, according to his report, a sort of *Paradisiac* state of art exists. He observed that, "in the whole history of art, a mutual good feeling existed among the professors of every branch. If we look to Egypt, we find that this feeling prevailed to such an extent that the artists lived together, almost apart from any other class of persons, forming themselves into species of castes or coteries, in which they pursued their various studies. In early Greece, artists formed themselves into societies, which mutually bound one with another. The architect, the painter, and the sculptor, united to carry out the development and form of art in every particular. The same principle was adopted so soon as ancient art became an object of interest to the Christian nations of Europe. In Germany it was well known that the artists formed a society almost exclusive, and were bound by mutual affections, interests, and passions." This Institute, in Mr. Wyse's opinion, will produce the same magnificent results which he has observed on the Continent, and produce British compositions equal to the "Loggie of Cornelius, or the works of Raphael and Michael Angelo." All this may be, as Mr. Wyse reports and anticipates, but we doubt it, and should be inclined to tell the whole story "with a difference," and a wide difference too, were we called upon so to do. Assuredly it could be no benefit to artists "to live apart from other persons, forming themselves into castes and coteries;" it would tend rather to the degradation of artists and the ruin of Art. No such thing, however, appears to be contemplated by the lawgivers of the Institute, and Mr. Wyse's examples have thus no relevancy to the question under consideration. The Institute is to be established for the purpose of facilitating a general intercourse between artists and friends of Art, men eminent in station and acquirement in literature, science and Art. The only question then is, whether the new Institute will produce this very desirable result. For our part, we do not see wherein, as regards its principles, this new Society differs from the Graphic Society, the Artists' and Amateurs' Society, and many others of a similar character, which have been heretofore established, and have failed in attaining their object. The funds of the Institute too, to be derived from subscriptions of one guinea a year, are wholly inadequate to the purpose. In brief, the project appears to us to be crude, undigested, and even aimless.

A correspondent thus writes to us:—

Dr. Waagen, in his 'Art and Artists in England' (vol. i. p. 229) has satisfactorily proved the celebratory portrait by Vandyck in the National Gallery, known by the name of *Gevartius*, not to be a representation of that individual; and Mrs. Jameson, in a note to her translation of Waagen's Rubens, acquiesces in the judgment of that distinguished connoisseur. The accomplished authoress remarks:—"It would be pleasant to be assured that Vandyck's imitable portrait in our National Gallery, known as that of *Gevartius*, or *Gevartius*, represented this distinguished friend of Rubens; but in the opinion of Dr. Waagen, it not only is not this *Gevartius*, but the name is altogether supposititious, and his reasoning appears conclusive." The portrait in question is that of Cornelius Vander Geest, a great patron of the Arts, at Antwerp, and for whom Rubens painted the celebrated "Battle of the Amazons," now in the Munich Gallery. Any one comparing the print of this individual, engraved by Paul Pontius, after Vandyck, with the picture in the National Gallery, will at once perceive both the print and the painting to be representations of the same individual. The head, in the print, is very slightly turned towards the right shoulder: were it not for this, it would present an exact copy of the head in the painting—the same features; the same "definite markings of the bones and the surfaces," which, Dr. Waagen remarks, "gives the picture a very energetic effect, resembling sculpture;" the same hair, the same frill. As the print is not very rare, it is surprising the resemblance has never been traced before; perhaps the subject is sufficiently interesting to stimulate some lover of art to verify these remarks.

We quite agree with our correspondent as to the near resemblance between Paul Pontius's engraving of Cornelius Vander Geest's portrait after Vandyck, and the portrait called, or rather mis-called, '*Gevartius*,' in the National Collection. Of this fact we have long been aware, but have withheld it from a doubt about its interest and importance to the public; and, also, for a second reason—the possibility that *Cornelius* had a brother or relative who still more resembled the above pseudonymous portrait. Besides some difference of feature—less aquiline nose, larger eyes, &c.—it has a mild, benignant, meditative look, humanly philosophic, and even mournful; which is the direct reverse of that bold, sharp, worldly-minded expression so prominent in the visage engraved.

Again, though two portraits of the same person, at almost the same age, may be cited, they are rare from such a great painter's hand—unless a sovereign, or very illustrious subject, employed it. We would, however, without any scruple, replace the name *Gevartius* by *Vander Geest* (leaving the Christian name undetermined), and thus far improve a miserable official catalogue, published, it might seem, less to impart knowledge than to propagate or perpetuate errors.

In addition to the elections of foreign members by the Austrian Academy of Fine Arts at Vienna, which we recently announced, we find, that at its meeting on the 12th of May last, that body elected Professor Donaldson an Honorary Member.

We learn from the *Times* that an interesting discovery has recently been made, of the correspondence and despatches of the great Duke of Marlborough. Some boxes, which were supposed to be filled with deeds and papers relating to the Marlborough estates, were lately examined, and have been found to contain the whole of the correspondence and despatches of the Duke, during the eventful period of the war of succession. A large portion of them—the letters to Prince Eugene and all the foreign sovereigns, princes, and generals,—are in the French language. They form a collection resembling the compilation of Colonel Gurwood, and the partial examination which there has been time to bestow on them has been just enough to prove the interest which attaches to them. They have been confided by the present Duke of Marlborough to the custody and inspection of Sir George Murray.

We alluded, in a recent number, to an association which had been formed to counteract "the sinful and irrational" practice of duelling, and expressed a hope that such an association might tend to the suppression of this murderous nuisance. A public meeting has since been held, attended by Viscount Lifford, Lord R. Grosvenor, Sir R. H. Inglis, Hon. W. Cowper, Admiral Sir F. Austen, Admiral Oliver, Sir E. Parry, R.N., Captain Robertson, R.N., and others, to prepare a memorial to her Majesty, praying her to exercise her royal prerogative towards the suppression of duelling. Sir E. Parry spoke strongly on the subject, and gave in the adhesion of Sir N. Wilmoughby, a man covered with wounds received in the service of his country, to the cause. Letters were also received, expressive of approbation, from Lord Teignmouth, Mr. J. P. Plumptre, M.P., and Mr. J. Finch, M.P. We have already expressed our approval of the Society, and its object; and are sure that nothing can serve the purpose better than the hearty co-operation of men of rank and known bravery in both services. We do not, however, see what end the address to the Queen is intended to serve, or how her Majesty can interfere.

Some time since we announced, and we believe correctly, that Government had decided on sending another expedition to Lycia, under the command of Mr. Fellows. What progress has been made towards fulfilling this intention, we have not lately heard; but unless there be some little energy and exertion on our part, we shall probably be anticipated, as we hear from Paris that the success of Mr. Fellows, and the antiquities lately brought by M. Texier from Magnesia, have encouraged the French government to prepare an expedition, which is about immediately to proceed to Lycia, and which, if there be much further delay on our part, will probably be found quietly located on the Xanthus when we arrive.

The French papers state that M. Paul Delacroix, generally known as Bibliophile Jacob, in making out, recently, the catalogue of the books of M. de Solesme, which are about to be brought to sale by order of his representatives, found bills and bank notes to the amount of 242,000 francs, inserted in some of the works which their deceased owner most admired.

The Rev. Mr. Mahoney, better known as Father Prout, has received from Government an appointment in the University of Valetta at Malta.

Letters from Cork announce that preparations are being actively made for the reception of the members of the Association, and that there is reason to believe that the present Meeting will in no respect fall short of its predecessors. Several of the most distinguished members have signified their intention of being present, and Prof. Phillips, the Assistant General

Secretary, has announced that several papers of great interest will be communicated. Several meetings of the Local Council have already been held, and the rooms and buildings placed at the disposal of the Association have been found to be ample for the purpose.

#### Closing of the present Exhibition.

##### BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALL MALL.

The Gallery is OPEN DAILY, from Ten in the Morning until Six in the Evening, with one Room containing the Works of Sir Joshua Reynolds, the next those of Ancient Masters, and the third with those of Deceased British Artists, and will be CLOSED on Saturday, the 26th inst.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 1s.

WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

##### DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

NOW OPEN, with a NEW EXHIBITION, representing the CATHEDRAL of NOTRE DAME at Paris, with effects of Sunset and Moonlight, painted by M. RENOUX, and the BASILICA of ST. PAUL, near Rome, before and after its destruction by Fire, painted by M. BOTTOS. Open from Ten till Six.—N.B. A GRAND MACHINE ORGAN has been constructed expressly for this Exhibition, by Messrs. Gray and Davison, of the New-road, and will perform the Gloria, from *Agade's Service*, No. 1, during the midnight effect of the Cathedral of Notre Dame.

##### ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

CARTOONS OF RAPHAEL.—The series of ORIGINAL CHAYON DRAWINGS (by Holloway) which were executed for the well-known ENGRAVINGS of these CARTOONS, are now exhibiting, with other additions to the numerous works, both in Art and Science, in this Institution. The LECTURES of Dr. RYAN, Professor BACHOFFNER, and Mr. GODDARD, are at Twelve, Two, a Quarter to Three, and Five, daily, and at Eight o'clock in the Evening. In these Lectures AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY and every recent Scientific Discovery is explained in a most popular manner. THE COLOSSAL ELECTRICAL MACHINE. NEW MICROSCOPIC VIEW (by Carey). DISOLVING VIEW, IN THE DIVING BELL, &c. &c. ROBINSON'S DRYING MACHINE in operation daily.—Open Mornings and Evenings, except Saturday Evening. Admission, One Shilling. Schools, Half-price.

THE CHINESE COLLECTION, Hyde Park-corner.—This UNIQUE COLLECTION consists of objects exclusively Chinese, and surpasses in extent and grandeur any similar display in the known world. The SPACIOUS SALOON is 225 feet in length, and is crowded with rare and interesting specimens of virtue. The Collection embraces upwards of SIXTY FIGURES AS LARGE AS LIFE, portraits from nature, appropriately attired in their native costume, from the MANDARIN of the highest rank to the wandering Mendicant; also MANY THOUSAND SPECIMENS in Natural History, and Miscellaneous Curiosities, the whole illustrating the appearance, manners, customs, and social life of more than THREE HUNDRED MILLION CHINESE.—Open from 10 till 10.—Admission 2s. 6d. Children under 12 years, 1s.

#### SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Aug. 1.—R. W. Barchard, Esq., in the chair. G. Banks, C. R. Colville, J. G. Dyne, P. P. Fitzpatrick, T. L. Hodges, R. N. Hunt, W. Shaw, E. Steer, and J. Tatham, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.—A communication from the Comte Lelieur respecting strawberries was read; it stated, that, in addition to the usual distinctive characters by which strawberries are recognized, several others might be added, viz. 1, the age at which each variety, raised from a runner, bears fruit; 2, the age at which each kind arrives at the maximum of its production; 3, how many years the same plant will continue in good bearing; and 4, what varieties will bear two crops in the same season: thus, for instance, Keen's seedlings and the British Queen will, if planted in the open border after being forced, grow luxuriantly, and produce a second crop more abundant than the first; whilst the Elton, under similar treatment, throws out nothing but runners; although these three sorts, after being forced, make extraordinary growth towards the end of the season, and bear a prodigious quantity of fine fruit for several succeeding years. Comte Lelieur was of opinion that it would be useful to select a certain number of plants of each of the best varieties after forcing, and to plant them in the open border, to ascertain which kinds will produce a second crop; and that it was a good plan, before turning them out of the pots, to withhold water entirely for a short time, in order that they might be excited into new growth by repeated waterings. The writer also observed that the temperature of pine stoves was too warm for strawberries, when first placed in heat to bring them forward; that the flowers of these plants, particularly of those kinds which throw out abundance of foliage before blooming, should be brought on gradually. Thus, for instance, the Elton is barren, while Keen's seedling succeeds in a rather high temperature, provided the house is kept cool until the fruit is set.—A paper from Mr. Dunsford, upon the cultivation of the pine-apple, was read. This was accompanied by the plan of a pit now in use, differing but slightly in external appearance from M'Phail's. The interior of the pit within the inner walls is filled up with brick rubbish so as to form a solid mass; and when level, the whole is covered with flat tiles or slates, upon which 9-inch draining-tiles are laid across the bed, commencing just above the front flue, and these are in their turn covered

with flat tiles. The draining-tiles convey the heat over the whole surface of the bed, so that a regular bottom-heat of 95° can be maintained. The depth of the pit from the glass to the tiles is 4½ ft. at the back and 4 ft. in front. In such a construction, the writer states, that, by the aid of dung-heat, every amateur and gardener may grow pines with as little trouble and expense as melons. A Providence pine, weighing 7 lb. 1 oz., so grown, accompanied the communication.—From B. Miller, Esq., was a Syon hybrid cucumber, exhibiting a natural graft, formed by the adhesion of the leaf-stalk to the side of the fruit; this kind is stated to be invaluable as a ridge cucumber in a cold wet season like the present, producing abundance of fine clean fruit, whereas the common hardy ridge sort, on the same bed, has been so much affected with canker as to be entirely useless.—Mr. Pepps exhibited two lupines, one planted on the 26th of April, when weighing 2.6 grains, in soil composed (in 100 parts) of silica, 75; alumina, 15; and carbonate of lime, 10: it was then watered with 3oz. 5drs. of distilled water, and afterwards with 3oz. of the same, every day; on the 30th of July it was in a dying state, and weighed 42.5 grains. The other, planted on the 8th of May, in peat and loam, and weighing 2.6 grains, was watered in the usual way, and weighed, on the 30th of July, 192.5 grains. Both plants were grown in glass pots. The experiment was made to ascertain how far it is possible to make plants grow without those elementary substances usually considered as forming their food.—From the garden of the Society were four plants of the common hydrangea, each of which had been treated in a different manner, to find out, if possible, what ingredient it was in the soil that changed the flowers from pink to blue. No. 1, treated in the usual way, was by far the most healthy plant, and bore pink flowers; 2, to which ½ oz. of phosphate of iron had been administered, was evidently in an unhealthy condition, the flowers being pink, small, and having with the leaves a yellowish tint; 3, treated with ½ oz. of caustic potash, bore small and pale pink flowers; while 4, to which ½ oz. of alum had been given, produced blue flowers—the dose had, however, been too strong, as was shown by the weak condition of the plant and the small size of the flowers; nevertheless it proved that alum will produce the desired effect.

MEETING FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.  
TUES. Horticultural Society, 3 P.M.

## FINE ARTS

### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THOUGH the fashion of cheap series of prints, if not on the wane, appears, like all other fashions, to have received a check from the bad times and the Income Tax,—still there are “works in progress” which require notice. We have the commencement of one publication, *The Book of German Ballads*, which promises to be vigorous enough to weather out any period of depression. Schroedter's illustration to the ‘Rheinweinlied’ is full of fancy, fine contrast of character and grace of design. Very picturesque and elegant, too, is Plueddemann's etching to ‘Der Nächtliche Ritter.’ Eber's group of ‘Die Weiber von Weinsberg’—a capital and characteristic subject for any artist—is less satisfactory: but Steinbrück's ‘Procession of the Crusaders’ has the right spirit: there was no need of the celestial air-borne group, to point the path, on which those mailed pilgrims were bound. We pause for a moment at Schirmer's landscape, from being less familiar with the Germans in this, than in any other branch of art. Whatever poetry there be in the composition is neutralized by the feebleness of the drawing: strange, that hands so skilful in delineating mortal thews and sinews, should fail so signally when the limbs of oak, elm, and pine, are the subjects. Among the fifteen illustrations before us, several others claim regard: and what may be called the mere decorative portion of the work has an excellent propriety and coherence,—to be felt, though possibly it rests upon canons too capricious and delicate to be precisely laid down by line and rule.

Since our last report, Mr. Brockedon's beautiful work on *Italy* has reached its sixteenth number; developing as it proceeds new features of interest. The thirteenth Part contains a view of ‘Assisi,’ which is interesting as having been sketched by the late Sir Francis Chantrey, and, though ineffective, it shows his

elegant taste in the composition of the lines. Two of the most striking and real-looking views are those of ‘Florence’ and ‘Genoa,’ from sketches by W. Turton, Esq., the architectural features of the scene being represented with attention to forms and massing not very common even in artists' drawings. The view of ‘Castell-a-mare,’ by Wolfenberger, is remarkable for the extent of its range, the solidity of its masses, and the aerial effect of the distance; but the tone is too gloomy for a southern clime, a fault which injures another view by the same artist, in which the ‘Church of St. John Lateran’ forms a principal object. The distant view of ‘Orvieto,’ crowning a height, the road leading straight up to the walled city, and a cottage with its goats and vine-trellis by the side, is one of Mr. Brockedon's most attractive sketches; his group of buildings at ‘Brescia’ is a pleasing arrangement of Italian architecture; and the view of the ‘Ruins of the Bridge of Augustus at Narni’ presents a romantic scene of beauty. Then we have ‘Naples from the Santa Lucia,’ after Leitch, and ‘Padua’ after Prout and the Editor (a capital town scene) to say nothing of Mr. Stanfield's picturesque and truthful vision of ‘Pisa’ where the foreground, in the painter's best manner, is especially admirable; or of Mr. Brockedon's striking view of the steep entrance to ‘Cortona’—the town which, as Forsyth graphically says, looks from a distance, “like a picture hung against a wall.” Although skill and care are manifest in the execution of all these plates, still they bear too many traces of the manufacturing school. The engravings of Messrs. Willmore and J. B. Allen are distinguished above the rest for execution and pictorial effect.

Mr. Roberts's great work of the *Holy Land* proceeds satisfactorily; the last Part we have seen (VI.) is still devoted to the desert solitudes and rocky caves of Petra, with its half-built half-excavated temples; the stupendous proportions of whose columns, though dwarfed by the huge masses of the cliffs above, are made evident by the contrast with figures. The groups of Arabs introduced in these views are the most attractive points of the pictures, and the best executed portion of the lithography; the foregrounds and distances of the last Part showing signs of haste and inequality that we hope will be no more apparent in future than they have been in previous Parts.

*Illuminated Illustrations of Froissart*, Parts I. to VIII.—A beautiful work, worthy to stand beside those treasures of middle age Art, for which we are indebted to Mr. Shaw. The plates are fac-similes of the illuminations in the splendid Froissart MS. in the British Museum, and the work will be, when complete, a storehouse of portraits, costume, ornament, architecture, furniture, and Middle Age life, at the service of our historical painters; and for the public a most choice drawing-room table book, of equal interest and beauty. But “when complete” are words of significance—for one half the MS. is in the *Bibliothèque Royale*, and we fear, from the announcement that the work before us will be concluded in about twelve parts, that it is not intended to add to it the illustrations of the Paris MS. This would be a pity, and, considering the low price at which the work is published, we trust that the publisher will receive sufficient encouragement to induce him to make it “complete”—and then we may advert more at length to its merits, and the probable influence of such publications.

*Subjects from the Designs of the Carracci*, selected and executed by S. M. Maury.—The Carracci have been over-rated and under-rated, but very seldom justly rated; and we think Mrs. Maury must take rank with the partial, when she asserts that “in the union of grace with truth, of science with strict adherence to nature,” they excelled all other artists. She has, however, done her best to justify this high eulogium, both by judicious selection and careful execution. The collection consists of ten subjects, besides portraits and vignettes, &c., all interesting, and some excellent—we would particularly instance *The Virgin and Child*, and *The Virgin and Child with Angels*, by Ludovico, both works of the highest class, and rendered with true artistic feeling by Mrs. Maury.

Two *Panoramic Views from the Round Tower of Windsor Castle*, looking east and west, drawn for Prince Esterhazy by Major Kretschmar, have been well lithographed by Messrs. Day & Haghe, and are remarkable for their minute accuracy, which, how-

ever, is so well managed as not to injure the general effect.

The third volume of *Winkles' Cathedrals*, comprising Lichfield, Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester, Durham, Carlisle, Chester, Ripon, St. David's, St. Asaph, Llandaff, and Bangor,—is now complete, the work being thereby terminated. Mr. Virtue's *Canadian Scenery Illustrated* is also brought to a close, at the end of the second volume. *The Scenery and Antiquities of Ireland*, by the same publisher, has arrived at its twenty-sixth Part. The illustrations of these publications are slight and mannered: one or two devices of atmospheric effect—such as the cloud and the sunburst—being resorted to, till the eye begins to long for a tranquil sky; but the works are creditable, considering the price. We must mention Mrs. Loudon's *Ladies' Flower Garden of Ornamental Perennials*, as having reached its twentieth number, and holding its place of beauty; and also the completion of the first volume of Mr. Westwood's *British Insects and their Transformations*.

As signs of the times, no less than for their intrinsic antiquarian curiosity, Part III. of *Examples of Encaustic Tiles, and Ancient Irish Pavement Tiles*, deserve attention. The student of symbols and the hunter for authorities will do well to consult these for heraldic ecclesiastical devices. We shall here merely announce the completion of Mr. Shaw's *Dresses and Decorations of the Middle Ages* (see No. 772): completed, as begun, with exquisite taste and care: and merely mention and reserve for future criticism, Mr. Gabbalhaus's *Ancient and Modern Architecture*, now at its tenth number, a work of greater value than pretension.

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

Mrs. GORDON, from EDINBURGH, has the honour to announce to the Nobility and Gentry, that she will give a CONCERT principally of SCOTTISH SONG, on TUESDAY EVENING NEXT, at 8 o'clock, in the QUEEN'S CONCERT ROOM, HANOVER SQUARE, when she will be ably assisted by Mrs. Chatfield, Messrs. Holmes, Willy, F. Martin, &c. Mr. Phillips, Conductor.—Tickets, 5s. each; to be had at the Rooms, and at the Music Shops.

### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

#### English Sacred Music.

*Mass in D*, by John Lodge Ellerton, Esq., with an Accompaniment for the Organ or Pianoforte, arranged from the full score by the Author.—Audrey's homespun question—“Is it a true thing?” might serve, in default of a better, by way of device for all critics on works of Art. Is this a true Mass?—is this a true full score? are inquiries naturally suggested by the title. The “*Esquire*” of the author may be presumed to imply amateurship—yet here he ventures to break a lance only with Palestrina, Jomelli, Bach, Mozart, Beethoven—only to measure himself against the greatest musicians! This is a work, therefore, to be perused with more than usual attention. It is not the first contribution to the stores of sacred music of a high order, ventured by an amateur. Not long ago we had an opportunity of offering an opinion on the original, though incomplete, Hymns and Anthems of Miss Flower: and we bear in agreeable recollection a Mass by M. le Prince de la Moskowa, which, though as a whole the work is unequally written, contains many unborrowed ideas and combinations. So much as this cannot be said for Mr. Lodge Ellerton, while the nature of his borrowings indicates an unusually low standard of taste. Nothing, for instance, can be more frivolous than the leading phrase in triple time, of the ‘Kyrie’—except it be the ‘Gratias agimus,’ which it really required some hardihood to publish, so trite and secular is the melody. After a very incoherent episode on the words ‘Agnus Dei,’ a ‘Qui tollis’ succeeds, which we mention, because though the idea be any one's or every one's property, there is more substance in the movement than in the rest of the Mass. The ‘Quoniam’ is a repetition of the *adagio* introduction to the ‘Kyrie,’ while the ‘Cum Sancto Spiritu’ is an attempt at a fugue, of which the composer presently becomes so weary that he introduces a *poco stringendo* with puerile pedal contrivances, etc., by way of ending the movement with *éclat*. In the ‘Credo’ will be found a false accent on the word *est* in the ‘Et incarnatus’; and an episodic ‘Crucifixus’ which means to be sublime and mysterious, and is only unpleasant. The ‘Et resurrexit’ is more coherent. It is fair to inquire on what principles of interpretation our author has given a wailing solo and quartet,

in the most wailing of minor keys, to the 'Sanctus,' which, from time immemorial, has been treated as one of the most jubilant portions of the Mass—see even the well known movement in the 'Requiem' of Mozart, where the melancholy and funereal colouring thrown over the whole composition was laid by for one burst of adoration. Mr. Lodge Ellerton redeems himself a little in the 'Pleni' and 'Hosanna' which immediately follow, and, though elongated beyond all precedent, are still among the better parts of his work; but his 'Benedictus' is a cento of the most hackneyed ideas, not very skillfully compounded—while the 'Dona' is positively ridiculous in its combination of solo and chorus, which brings the sacred service to a close with something almost as tripping as a hornpipe, but alas! not half so gay. If any one should defend these trivialities by citing examples from Haydn and Mozart, we have but to repeat that such a defence indicates a low development of taste and intelligence. Neither master was happy as a mass-writer; neither, it is true, could nod through a whole composition, but in the case of both, the works were wrung out of fatigue by importunity—and who can wonder, if the refuse of symphonic and operatic ideas was unconsciously permitted to cover the space which ought to have been filled by ampler outlines and forms more spiritual? Unless Mr. Lodge Ellerton could plead such an excuse as good-tempered Haydn in his domestic Xantippe, who would not be pacified unless her husband propitiated her monkish friends, by spinning sacred music for their benefit—or, like poor Mozart, that he wrote against time and for money—he cannot be forgiven for imitating commonplaces which were accidents, not essentials: evidences of passing weakness and want of thought, and not fruits of strength and meditation.

*Laudes Diurne: the Psalter and Canticles in the Morning and Evening Service of the Church of England, set and pointed to the Gregorian Tones, by Richard Redhead; with a Preface on Antiphonal Chanting, by the Rev. Frederick Oakeley.*—This attempt to thrust the Gregorian Chant upon the services of the Church of England claims attention for the sake of a preface, full of fallacies, though plausible and well written. The animus of it is contained in the following passage:—

"It needs but little skill in music," says Mr. Oakeley, "to perceive that the Gregorian tones are formed upon an idea of the nature and proper end of chanting, entirely different from that which has given rise to the tunes to which the psalms are commonly sung in our own cathedrals. Modern chants, to speak generally, seem to presuppose that music is intended to embellish and set off the sacred words of inspiration: whereas the very notion of a 'tone,' by which name the Gregorian chants are most fitly designated, is that of a simple form of recitation, a mere vehicle of the sacred words, not an elaborate and ornamental framework. Some modern chants, no doubt, there are, which are conducted upon the simpler principle; but by far the larger portion, though preserving a certain character of solemnity suited to their object, are too much surely of the nature of musical compositions, to be consistent with that high, self-forgetting reverence towards their subject, which is characteristic of the older melodies."

These Gregorian tones bear date and proportion with the palm-leaf vaults, or the natural rock caverns, under which the primitive congregations gathered for prayer and praise. Why should such relics, however interesting in themselves, be dragged out of oblivion, and put to uses for which the wisdom of our fathers pronounced them too crude and shapeless? The original services were chanted in a language now dead, to the cadences of which the Gregorian tones bear a certain relationship; but used with an English text, "the high and self-forgetting reverence" of the worshipper implies a barbarous mutilation of his mother tongue. It is hardly possible to go over a single psalm, as here set and pointed, without being repelled by the violence done to the sacred text, by contempt of accent, punctuation, of everything, in short, for which the Cathedralists so wisely provided, in their adjustment of the Romish service for the Church of England.

Yet more, the advocates of these fopperies are not self-consistent. We presume that Mr. Oakeley's Psalm-book would not be rejected by the members of the *Motett Society*,—one of whose avowed objects it is, to provide service-music of an orthodox quality for the

Church. So far, however, from discountenancing musical composition, as interfering with a "self-forgetting and reverential spirit," they make it all-paramount, by forcing the English words into union with ancient Italian compositions, under a conviction of the artistic fitness of the latter;—since the sense of the text is utterly corrupted by omissions and cross-readings, the effect of which at times verges on the profane. Thus it was a point of conscience with cathedral writers, that every singer of the quartet should pronounce the consecutive words of the hymn, so as to enunciate them for himself, and those disposed to follow his part. Now we find, in the new version of the Creed, that one voice has to utter the following sentence—

*And was made man,—under Pontius Pilate, while a subsequent verse, given by the quartet, is so arranged that the entire effect must be—*  
*One Catholic and Apostolic Church—Bap—for the remission of sins.*

If this be not introducing confusion into our orderly cathedral service, the word has no meaning. Yet this measure is a branch of the same policy which has disintegrated the Gregorian chants, for the sake of their clearness and simplicity, and that the words may be heard free from any meretricious musical excitement! These obvious mistakes are so steadily increasing as to make it necessary, from time to time, to examine and explain their bearings. The manner of publication, too, is sometimes remarkable, when taken in conjunction with the "high and self-forgetting reverence," announced as the principle of authorship. An advertisement before us recommends the Book of Common Prayer, noticed by us a week or two since, in the following unequivocal fashion:—"Independently of the interest attached to the musical part of the work, it will be found a beautiful specimen of black and red letter typography (!) and an elegant service-book, adapted either for private use or for the church desk and altar." We have yet to become accustomed to the fitness of this manner of advertising spiritual things.

Let us now, however, take a view of matters at the opposite extreme—as typified in a slim volume containing—

*Psalms and Hymns as sung at the Sunday Evening Lectures in the Galilee of Durham Cathedral, by Thomas Brown, of the Durham Cathedral Choir.*—If we are to accept this volume as a specimen, a musical "Thomas Brown the Younger" might employ his satirical pen worse than by exhibiting the disorderly practices sanctioned in some of our cathedrals. We have rarely looked into a tune-book for an "Ebenezer" or a "Bethel" more reprehensible than this collection, sung in the Durham "Galilee." On principle we object to the harmonized melody of Handel (page 3),—to the distortion of the 'Kyrie' of Mozart's Twelfth Mass (p. 4), with the unmeaning second part patched on,—to the style of Arnold's 23rd Psalm (p. 8), which gives scope to the uttermost vulgarity of singing; and, on like grounds, to the tunes 'Galilee' (p. 13), 'Monmouth' (p. 16), 'St. Elizabeth' (p. 24), 'Mount of Olives' (p. 29), 'Psalm 136' (p. 30). The 'Missionary Hymn,' too, (p. 32) is a very queer composition, apparently the uncouth and rambling production of an amateur. But the day of such publications as this is over.

We may here add a line, to notice a well-meant tract—*The Art of Reading Church Music*, by William Marshall—in which sound principles are advocated, and no royal road pointed out. The treatise, however, though sensible, wants clearness. Mr. Marshall has obviously knowledge, but not the means of communicating it in equal proportion.

A few words more, and this "Assize" for the trial of our new sacred music shall be closed. In the dedication of his *Sacred Harmony, a Collection of three hundred and fifty Psalm Tunes, Ancient and Modern*, to Her Majesty, Mr. Hamilton "humbly presumes" that it is the most extensive publication of the kind extant. On the strength of this, he has overlooked good taste and correctness with no ordinary courage. A good score of airs extracted from favourite instrumental and operatic compositions, are objectionable in the highest degree, the grievance beginning with No. 4—a harmonized melody by Onslow—and reaching its climax at No. 348: where one of Haydn's *andantes*, sprightly to the tripping point, is compelled to "come into church." Moreover, while merely turning over the leaves, over-

sights have forced themselves upon notice so glaring as to warrant general mistrust of this publication. Nos. 20 and 308, for instance, are one and the same tune:—so are Nos. 262 and 170 (the latter mis-entered in the index as No. 169.) Composers' names, too, have been mercilessly treated. Some of the "new arrangements" are very strange: e.g. the accidentals in the four first bars of the bass part of 'Milgrove' (No. 170) aforesaid, to say nothing of half a hundred fine old tunes wrested out of their proper rhythms, and disfigured by crude harmonies. One or two of the modern melodies, however, by our young English composers, are smooth and tuneful. So very bad is Mr. Hamilton's editorship of this great book, that we dare not commend his less ambitious manual for chanting the *Morning and Evening Service* (Part 8th of the 'Library of Musical Knowledge') without a closer examination than the moment admits of.

#### Sonatas.

We are glad to meet with a *Sonata for the Piano-forte and Violoncello*, op. 3, by Charles E. Horsley, since the work, from its form, claims respect and attention. Perhaps there is hardly a severer test of ingenuity, science, and knowledge of effect, than the composition of a classical *duo* in which the piano is to bear a part. Careful writing, or a command over the resources of counterpoint, will always make a stringed quartet respectable, even though the idea be somewhat trite, while, in a trio, the composer commands superior resources of contrast. Accordingly, we find a far greater number of passable compositions on the larger than on the more limited scale. The classical duets for piano and violoncello, which have stood the test of time, may be counted in a paragraph: beginning with Beethoven's three Sonatas—the last in a major, being the king of its tribe. His two later duets are rarely, if ever, to be heard; as they belong to the debatable time of his authorship, and not only the style, but the execution, demands the highest possible intelligence. Yet it would be well worth while for some pair of instrumentalists to study the second of the works in question—the Sonata in D major; since its two first movements have that grandeur of outline never reached by any other composer, for the sake of which may be forgiven the crudity of certain passages, and of the final fugue. Next in esteem to Beethoven's duets, may be named the two first of the three by Onslow. These are among their author's best piano-forte compositions; being less patchy than others we could mention, and full of those elegant ideas distinctive of the works produced in Onslow's golden age. In both, the rondo is the least happy portion; the composer being for the most part tedious when his labour draws to a close. Then we have Mendelssohn's Duet, which is now established as a favourite, though, taken as a whole, it is hardly one of his happiest inspirations. But the exquisite song, or serenade, or *notturno*, if we may so fancifully christen the middle movement, will keep its ground, we imagine, as long as players on the two instruments exist. There is a grand Sonata, by Ries, dedicated to Sir Herbert Taylor (grand in right of its passionate and well-contrasted first *allegro*; the slow movement, and the rondo *de ballet* which follow, being essentially meaner in their proportions) which must not be forgotten. The works of this clever composer, as we have often lamented, have been too universally laid aside, by reason of their inequality: yet one after of every ten, or thereabouts, is well worth rescuing and defending by every one who loves variety in chamber music better than his own prejudices. We have kept Hummel's Duet in a major for the end of the list, that we may close it gloriously. This is, indeed, one of its author's master-works, to be numbered—together with his *solo* Sonata in F sharp minor, one or two of his Concertos, as many of his Trios and his Septuor—among the choicest things in the pianist's library. Perhaps Hummel favoured his own instrument, at the expense of his partner, a little disproportionately; but for contrast betwixt movement and movement, for grace of melody and richness of texture, the work has few peers. After this, we had better not advert to certain of the recent German novelties, which, from time to time, have presented themselves. When we have announced that a Duet by Ferdinand Hiller (published, strange to say, at Milan, from whence Sibylla might augur much) contains a graceful *allegro*, and a bewitching and busy *scherzo*, which will torment every

pianist who is not as *light-fingered* as a Barrington's self, we may, with a clear conscience, try the worth of our new English contribution to a store so curiously meagre.

Bearing fully in mind that we have been speaking of *chefs-d'œuvre*, Mr. Horsley's Sonata deserves credit as a meritorious composition. The first *allegro* is a little undecided in style, and betrays what the author's favourite studies have been; the *andante* is more original and more coherent—the theme being terse, expressive, and pleasing; the movement, however, is, perhaps, too long-drawn. The *rondo* is at once bold and melodious, with natural yet unhackneyed modulations. Nor is the composition, like much young writing, impracticably difficult to execute. In short, it contains promise for the future as well as pleasure for the present moment. The time ought not to be far distant, when profit as well as praise should result to the authors of works in every point of view so creditable.

The enterprising publishers of Dr. Mendelssohn's productions have added to their catalogue a reprint of one of his earliest compositions, the *Sonata* for pianoforte *solo* in E major. We wish it was more the taste of the time to study such works; since the result must be some insight into design as well as detail, such as it is impossible to gather from any mere study, *notturno*, or operatic *fantasia*, however fashionable or difficult. One of the composer's peculiarities—namely, to make the several movements of his works melt into, rather than succeed each other,—is here curiously evidenced. The smooth *arpeggio* passage in the first *allegretto* is reproduced with graceful effect in the rhapsodical *intermezzo* which introduces the *finale*; and is once again inwrought into the close of the composition. The first movement, an excellent specimen of the *legato* style; and the *molto allegro* grand and bold, with a touch of dashing audacity, reminding us of the symphony to the opening chorus in Weber's 'Euryanthe,' or the same composer's march in 'Oberon.'

#### MISCELLANEA

Mr. James Hakewill.—Died at his apartments in Adam-street West, Bryanstone-square, May 28, in his 65th year, James Hakewill, architect. This gentleman was principally known by publications on architectural antiquities and the fine arts. His first work was a novel, entitled 'Celebs suited; or, the Stanley Letters,' 1812. In 1813 he produced a large volume in imperial 4to. called 'The History of Windsor and its Neighbourhood,' with twenty-one engravings and fourteen vignettes from his own drawings, price five guineas. The views were from his own pencil. It was well received at the time, and many years after he was much gratified on receiving the thanks of Sir Jeffrey Wyattville for the publication, coupled with the assurance that, in his alterations in that abode of royalty, he had endeavoured to carry out his suggestions. When the general peace opened the Continent to English travellers, he went to Italy, accompanied by his wife, whose taste and talents qualified her thoroughly to enjoy all the beauties of nature and art that were displayed before them, and there they passed the greater part of the years 1816 and 1817, which afforded the materials for a 'Picturesque Tour of Italy,' which was published, with sixty-three plates, in twelve parts quarto and folio, 1818-1820, illustrated by parallels of Dorton House, Hatfield, Longleat, and Wollaton, in England; and the Palazzo Della Cancelleria, at Rome. This is an interesting work, both in its literary matter and in illustrations. Among the latter are some engravings from fine drawings by Turner, one of which, a composition of Roman edifices, surpasses any picture by Pannini. This work was brought out with great care, and immediately obtained a high rank in the estimation of the public, which it is well qualified to retain, as, for accuracy of delineation, and excellence of engraving, it does not yield to any that sprung from that fruitful field. In 1825 he published, in folio, 'A Picturesque Tour in the Island of Jamaica, from drawings made in the years 1820 and 1821.' In 1828, 'Plans, Sections, and Elevations of the Abattoirs of Paris, with consideration for their adoption in London,' 4to. In 1835, 'An Attempt to determine the exact Character of Elizabethan Architecture,' 8vo. In the year 1840 he was engaged in furnishing drawings for a projected work on the Rhine, which it was intended

should have been a counterpart to his 'Italy,' but which has never been published, the drawings remaining in the hands of the engraver.—*Gentleman's Mag.*

*Electrotype*.—A paragraph in your paper of the 29th of July, copied from the *Gardener's Chronicle*, states that some beautiful specimens of the application of the electrotype process to vegetation were exhibited by Messrs. Elkington, of Regent Street; and, further, that this opened a new view and most interesting field to the application of the electrotype process: I beg to inform you that Mr. Cox (of Islington), in May last, at the Royal Institution, in Albemarle Street, exhibited sundry specimens of electrotyped plants and flowers. This induced me to wait upon Mr. Cox, who showed me various other specimens of the most delicate texture, and informed me that he had been making them for some months previously. I beg to enclose my name and address, but subscribe myself

ALPHA.

*A Fire-proof Powder Magazine*.—The *Times* mentions that an experiment took place on Wednesday at Paine's wharf, Westminster, for the purpose of testing the capabilities of a magazine to contain powder in ships of war, recently patented by Mr. J. A. Holdsworth, as being impervious to fire, though subjected on all sides to the greatest possible degree of heat. A model of a magazine, about nine feet square, was placed on the wharf within a few feet of the water's edge. This model is formed of a double set of thin iron plates, riveted together at about two inches and a half asunder, the hollow being filled with water and supplied from a vat placed somewhat above the level of the magazine and entering it through a pipe inserted in the lower part of the model. A channel of communication exists through every side as well as the top and bottom, and from the upper surface a second pipe conveys the stream of water back to the vat from which it is supplied. The door of the magazine is hung on hinges, made hollow, and guarded from leaking by stuffing boxes, so that the water flows into the door through one hinge and out through the other. The patentee having explained the principle of his invention, placed a quantity of combustible matter within the model, over which some gunpowder was laid on a sheet of paper. A registering thermometer having been placed inside, the door was closed and a stack of dried timber deposited on every side of the model, was set a-light. The fire was kept up more than half-an-hour, and the water rose to very nearly boiling heat, continually passing in a stream through the upper pipe into the reservoir containing cold water. On the door being opened, the combustible matters and powder were found to be perfectly uninjured, and the highest point to which the mercury had risen within the model was marked at 100 degrees of Fahrenheit. A somewhat similar principle has been applied to the stoker's room in the *Victoria* and *Albert* royal steam yacht, where the bulkheads have been constructed of two plates of sheet iron, instead of wood faced with iron, a stream of water constantly flowing between, by which means the temperature of the engine room is kept cool.

*Thunder-storm*.—On Tuesday and Wednesday last terrific thunder-storms, of which the only trace in London was a succession of brilliant sheet lightning, visited several parts of England. At Rochester hailstones fell which measured an inch and a half in length, and the roaring sound of the rain and hail is described as equal to the noise of the thunder itself. At Cheltenham and Stamford the storm was also very severe. At Worcester it continued for nearly six hours, and the roads were flooded up to the body of the carriages. It appears, however, to have burst with most violence over Cambridge, where hailstones are said to have fallen as large as pullets' eggs. The town was completely inundated, and Trinity Church, King's College Hall, and the north end of Trinity Hall have been much damaged. At nearly all these towns the lightning appears to have struck some high building, and done much damage.

*Roman Antiquities*.—An antique silver vase of great beauty, and covered with bas-reliefs, has been discovered at Tournai, in the arrondissement of Vienné. It is semi-oval, and sixteen centimètres high, with allegorical representations of the seasons, &c. Several consular coins, and a bronze statue of Venus had been previously discovered in the same village.—At the village of Warden, in the neighbourhood of Cologne, on the high road to Aix-la-Chapelle, the grave of a Roman general has been discovered in good preservation. In it have been found several coins, and one of the reign of Vespasian, A.D. 70. There are also three marble statues, and two elaborately carved seats, likewise of marble.

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